The New-York Times.

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IMPORTANT FROM WASHINGTON.

Nature of the British Demands Upon Our Government.

A Reported Extraordinary Cabinet Session.

Probable Decision to Give Up Mason and Slidell, with Conditions.

The Question of the Right of Search to be Permanently Settled.

No Interference in Behalf of the Rebellion.

The Proposed Line of Submarine Military Telegraph.

Letter from Cyrus W. Field to Gen. McClellan.

A Quiet Christmas Day at the Capital.

OUR SPECIAL WASHINGTON DISPATCHES.

WASHINGTON, Wednesday, Dec. 25.

THE DEMANDS OF GREAT BRITAIN—PROBABLE ANSWER OF OUR GOVERNMENT.

The Cabinet is alleged to have had a special and extraordinary session to-day, to consider the demands of Lord LYONS in behalf of the British Government in the *Trent* affair. These demands are said to be an apology, and the restitution of MASON and SLIDELL to British custody. It is understood that our Government is ready to disavow the act of Capt. WILKES, and to deliver up MASON and SLIDELL, if that be the only means of purchaseing peace with England; but, as a condition of this disavowal and restitution, it is said that our Government will require Great Britain to concede this as a definite statement of the question in regard to the right of search at sea, and also that no interference shall be made by the British Government at any time, in behalf of the rebellion now in progress against the United States Government. Unless these two points are secured, it is not believed that the American people would sustain the Administration in the surrender of the rebel Commissioners.

GEN. SCOTT.

The arrival here of Gen. SCOTT is looked for with much interest.

CHRISTMAS DAY.

There has been a general observance of Christmas day, all secular business being suspended. The street crossings were guarded by a few mounted and foot soldiers, to be ready to suppress any disturbance, the city being visited by hundreds of volunteers, some of whom were arrested by the Provost Guard for being absent from their camps without leave. All the drinking saloons are closed to-night, which may account for the prevalent good order.

GEN. M'CLELLAN'S HEALTH.

Gen. MCCLELLAN'S health is improving, and to-day he was enabled to attend to his business in his room. Gen. MCCALL'S report was read to him as he sat up in bed, but it has not been placed in reach of the Press. An order of publication will be made in a few days.

WINTER QUARTERS.

No order has yet been given in relation to Winter quarters for any portion of the army of the Potomac. Most of the regiments, however, have made preparations voluntarily, for present comfort, by constructing additions to their tents from such materials as are at hand, and are so well guarded against the weather that they could remain in their quarters all Winter without great inconvenience or injurious exposure.

FROM THE UPPER POTOMAC.

Information from Williamsport represents all quiet in that vicinity.

The report is confirmed that the main body of JACKSON'S force has retired to Martinsburgh, and probably to Winchester, leaving on the Virginia neck, opposite Williamsport, a small body of troops, while others are performing picket duty above and below that point, not in all over 200 men.

Early Monday morning a man who emerged from the ruins of COLSTON'S mills with a firebrand in his hand, having been seen making his way to the cribwork of Dam No. 5, evidently to destroy the woodwork, was shot down by a sentinel belonging to Col. KENLEY'S command, on the Maryland side. Col. KENLEY'S regiment now guards the Potomac from Dam No. 5 to Hancock, connecting with Gen. KELLEY'S pickets at the latter place.

THE MILITARY SUBMARINE TELEGRAPH.

MR. CYRUS W. FIELD'S plan for establishing telegraphic communication between the seat of Government and the different naval and military stations on the Southern coast, and which was noticed a few days since in the TIMES, has received the cordial approval of Gen. MCCLELLAN, who earnestly advises its being carried into execution by the Government. It is understood that the President and Cabinet fully approve of the measure, and the enterprise will be commenced at an early day. To bring Fortress Monroe and Newport's News in telegraphic communication with Washington less than thirty miles of submarine cable are needed, and this part of the line will be completed at an early day.

The submarine cables which have been recently laid in Europe have been completely successful.

I subjoin the routes, with the length of the cables:

From England to Holland, 140 miles.
From England to Hanover, 360 miles.
From England to Denmark, 480 miles.
From France to Algiers, 500 miles.
From Malta to Alexandria, 1,300 miles.

The following letter fully explains the plan, and the extent to which the system is proposed to be extended:

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7.

SIR: In compliance with the request contained in Gen. WILLIAMS' letter of the 6th inst., in answer to mine of the 4th, and the verbal communication received from you through our mutual friends, WILLIAM H. ASPINWALL, Esq., and Capt. FOX, I submit the following suggestions for the consideration of the Government:

Assuming that there can be no question as to the great advantages to be derived by the War and Navy Departments, and in fact the whole Government, from the establishment of direct telegraphic communication between the seat of Government and the principal military and naval stations which the Government may have on our Southern Atlantic and Gulf coasts, I would most respectfully recommend:

1. That the land line of telegraph be extended from its present terminus in Delaware, through Accomac and Northampton Counties, in Virginia, to a point on the coast, near Cape Charles.

	Miles.
2. That a submarine cable be laid from said point to Fortress Monroe	20¾
3. That Newport's News and Fortress Monroe be connected by a submarine cable	6¾
Total to Fortress Monroe and Newport's News	27

Thus by the completion of this short land line, and the use of only 27 miles of submarine cable, direct communication would be established between Washington and Fortress Monroe, and Newport's News.

Or if there be any doubt about the Government being able to maintain the land line, through Accomac and Northampton Counties in Virginia, a cable can be laid from Fortress Monroe and Newport's News to Annapolis, or any other point desired, on the West coast of the Chesapeake Bay near Washington.

4. That a cable be laid from Fortress Monroe to Fort Clark at Hatteras Inlet	152
Total to Hatteras Inlet	179
5. That Fort Clark at Hatteras Inlet, be connected with Fort Beauregard at Bay Point, Port Royal Entrance	352
Total to Port Royal	531
6. That Fort Beauregard and Fort Walker, at Hilton Head, be connected by a cable	2¾
7. That the southern point of Hilton Head Island be connected with Tybee Island, at the entrance to Savannah, Ga. (The opposite ends of Hilton Head Island can be connected by a short land line)	6
Total to Tybee Island	539¾

Or instead of connecting the opposite ends of Hilton Head Island by a land line, a cable can be laid direct from the fort on Hilton Head to Tybee Island.

8. That a cable be laid from Tybee Island to Fernandina, Florida	97
Total to Fernandina	636¾

From Fernandina across Florida to Cedar Keys there is a railroad and a good land line of telegraph in operation.

9. That a cable be laid from Cedar Keys to Fort Pickens	271
Total to Fort Pickens	907¾
10. That a cable be laid from Fort Pickens to Ship Island	102
Total to Ship Island	1,009¾

Should Government desire it to be done at any time, branch lines to connect with the main line can be laid.

From Ship Island to Galveston, Texas	432
From Cedar Keys to Key West	329
From Key West to Tortugas	72

Or to any other points on the coast, with which it may be desirable to have telegraphic communication.

A careful examination of the charts of the above proposed routes, will show that nature has interposed no obstacle to the successful prosecution of this enterprise.

The cable throughout the route may, and should be laid in deep water, beyond the reach of accidental or intentional injury.

In relation to the cost of laying a submarine cable, as above proposed, I would say that it will depend in a great measure upon the price of gutta percha in England at the time the cable shall be ordered, and also upon whether the Government shall desire this line established for merely a temporary purpose, or as a permanent means of communication with its military and naval stations on the route indicated.

Submarine cable may possibly be obtained as low as $100 per mile, and from that sum up to perhaps $1,000, depending upon the quality, quantity and price of material used, the perfection of the workmanship, and whether designed for a temporary or permanent purpose.

I would strongly recommend that for the proposed line, the Government procure a good and permanent cable, such as I ordered in England in 1856 for the New-York, Newfoundland and London Telegraph Company, which was successfully laid in July of that year across the Gulf of St. Lawrence, between Newfoundland and Cape Breton, and which, for years, has not for a moment failed to work perfectly, without the expense of a single cent for repairs.

This cable cost about one hundred pounds sterling per mile in England.

The cost of establishing the proposed line would be, beside the price paid the manufacturer for the cable, the freight out from England, and the expense of laying.

The rate of expense per mile for laying it would be very much less for a long than for a short line, as the expense of a steamer across the Atlantic, with the cable, and machinery ready for laying it, would be nearly the same in both cases.

The French Government has recently had a cable laid across the Mediterranean, from Toulon to Algiers, a distance of over five hundred miles; and the English Government one from Malta to Alexandria, a distance, by the route pursued, of over thirteen hundred miles, and both are working with entire success.

With these lines established, and a dispatch-vessel running between Key West and Havana, the Government would be kept constantly advised not only of the movements of its own forces, but also of those of the rebels, on the coast, and their vessels in the West Indies; and should the *Nashville*, the *Sumter*, or any other piratical craft, appear in those waters, it would be at once known here. But it cannot be necessary for me to refer to individual instances to illustrate the advantages to the Government at all times of such a means of communication, and especially during the existence of the war for the suppression of the present wicked rebellion, as its importance is too obvious to require it.

A single message may be of more value to the Government than the entire cost of the line proposed. With much respect, I remain,

Your obedient servant,
(Signed) CYRUS W. FIELD.

To Gen. GEO. B. MCCLELLAN, Commander-in-Chief United States Army, Washington, D. C.

P. S.—As bearing upon the question as to the time required to make and lay a cable as I have suggested, I would state that the Atlantic Cable was manufactured at the rate of about twenty miles per day, and was laid across the Atlantic—a distance of about 1,900 statute miles—in less than seven days from the time we commenced in mid-ocean.

Possessing such a line, the Government would be saved the expense of dispatch-boats to convey intelligence; and, when peace is restored, with short branches extending from the main-line to New-Orleans, Mobile, Savannah, Charleston, and other principal Southern ports, it would be very valuable for commercial purposes, and could undoubtedly be disposed of for a large sum, should Government then be willing to allow it to pass into other hands.

Major Gen. MCCLELLAN indorses this letter as follows:

"I most fully concur in the importance of the submarine telegraph proposed by Mr. FIELD; and earnestly urge that his plan may be adopted, and he authorized to have the plan carried into execution."

Very respectfully,
(Signed) GEO. B. MCCLELLAN.

Hon. SIMON CAMERON, Secretary of War.

On Monday, by motion of Mr. SIMMONS, a Committee of three was directed to be appointed by the Chair, to inquire into the expediency and practicability of connecting some of our military and naval stations on the coast by means of submarine cables, and to report to the Senate by bill or otherwise.

The Vice-President has appointed Mr. SIMMONS, of the Committee on Finance; Mr. SHERMAN, of the Committee on Naval Affairs, and Mr. LATHAM, of the Committee on Military Affairs, the said Committee. One of them is from the East or Atlantic coast, another from the centre, the third from the Pacific coast. The Committee is regarded as one of the best that could be appointed.

NAVY RECRUITING OFFICES.

The Secretary of the Navy has given public notice of the opening of recruiting offices for the navy at Portsmouth, N. H., Boston, New-Bedford, New-York, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington. The traveling expenses of recruits from their residences to the rendezvous are allowed by the Government, and an outfit valued at $31 27, furnished on board and charged for. Three months' advance to seamen, and two months' advance to landsmen is allowed.

THE MILEAGE QUESTION.

A number of members of Congress have been importuning for the payment of mileage for the present session. Their demands have thus far been refused by Secretary CHASE and Gen. SPINNER, the United States Treasurer.

By the act of Aug. 16, 1856, it is provided that the compensation of Senators, members and delegates shall be $6,000 for each Congress and mileage as now provided by law, for two sessions only. The first mileage due was drawn at the extra session. It is now claimed, that under a joint resolution, passed Dec. 23, 1857, in which it is provided that "in the first day of the second, or any subsequent session, the members shall receive mileage as now allowed by law," members are entitled to mileage for each session, though it is provided that it shall be received "as now provided by law," and the law of 1856 provides that the mileage shall be received for two sessions only." The demand was made on the certificate of the Speaker that the amount was due, and Mr. VALLANDIGHAM, in pressing his claim, produced a clause in an act passed in 1851, when the pay of members was $8 per day, and by which it is enacted that the certificates of the Speaker shall be conclusive upon all officers of the Government. As an appropriate sequel to this pettifogging, it turned out that the Speaker's certificates are signed in blank, and that Mr. GROW disavows the attempt to get around the law.

THE CONTRABAND QUESTION.

Prominent members of Congress are considering a new proposition for the solution of the "contraband" question, in order to avoid the expense of supporting crowds of slaves in idleness, and furnish the American mills with cotton. They take the ground that the Indian Territory west of Louisiana and Arkansas was ceded to the United States by treaty, and on certain conditions. Without provocation they have violated the treaties and "levied war" on the United States, thus rendering the treaties null and void. The countries thus reverting to the Government embraces the valleys of the Red, Arkansas and other rivers, and contains about 20,000,000 of acres of cotton land, of unsurpassed fertility, capable of producing about 15,000,000 of bales of cotton per annum.

It is proposed to apply the principle of BENTON'S "Florida Armed Occupation Act," and send all "contrabands" to this territory and apprentice them to the settlers upon these cotton lands, leaving the question of their final disposition to be settled by Congress at the close of the war. All contrabands, as fast as they come into camp, to be promptly forwarded thither.

The country is approached from St. Louis, through Springfield, a distance of 300 miles. The remainder of the railroad from Rolla through Springfield to Fort Smith, can be completed in twelve months. It is said that the plantations of the Chootaws and Chickasaws alone could fully supply the American mills, even the first year of the experiment.

RIFLES FOR BERDAN'S SHARPSHOOTERS.

The Secretary of War has ordered for Col. BERDAN'S Brigade the "Spences Magazine Rifle." This gun fires eight times without charging, and can be recharged and ready for eight additional rounds in almost the same time that the ordinary musket can be loaded once. In appearance it is not unlike the "Sharpe Rifle." There is not the least leakage of gas, and all the parts work freely. Neither caps or primers are required, the detonating powder being in a medal cartridge with the powder and ball. This rifle has been tested by Col. BERDAN and the Ordnance Board. These expensive weapons will not be given to any other corps. It is understood that the order was made at Gen. MCCLELLAN'S personal request.

Capt. GROVER, of the Tenth Infantry United States Army, some time ago appointed by Col. BERDAN Colonel of his First Regiment of Sharpshooters, has just arrived from New-Mexico, and will report at once for duty.

SICKNESS IN THE CAMPS.

By careful examination it has been ascertained, beyond doubt, that nine-tenths of all the sickness in in camps caused by sleeping upon the ground; and the neglect being susceptible of improvement causes much dissatisfaction among the soldiers.

REBEL PRIVATEERS.

The Government has no information upon which to base a belief that more than two rebel privateers are now on the seas. One is the steamer *Sumter*, and the other the schooner *Sally*, and the existence of the latter is very problematical.

CONGRESSMAN ELY AT RICHMOND.

An eminent gentleman of this city received yesterday a letter from Mr. EDMUND TAYLOR, who was captured at the battle of Bull Run, where he went as a spectator, and is now a prisoner in Richmond jail. He is brother of the late Col. TAYLOR, of Ohio. For the past four months he has been in the same cell with Congressman ELY, and thus writes of that gentleman:

"My intimate acquaintance with Mr. ELY fully justifies me in saying to you that he deserves the early exertions of his own Government in his behalf. His generous offer to advance five thousand dollars out of his own private means to clothe the unfortunate destitute prisoners here, seems to me, calls loudly for the interposition of the National Executive. Independently of this noble offer of Mr. ELY, he has conducted himself towards his unfortunate countrymen in every possible way, by the distribution of his, at present, limited means for the amelioration of their distresses, so as to elicit their warmest gratitude. In speaking thus of Mr. ELY I not only give utterance to my own candid sentiments, but I hazard nothing in saying that they meet with a hearty and unqualified response from all his unfortunate companions."

WIARD'S STEEL RIFLED CANNON.

The test of WIARD'S steel rifled cannon, at the Arsenal on Tuesday, proved them to be the most accurate shooting guns ever tried there.

A DINNER.

A splendid dinner was given to-night by Col. HAVELOCK to his associates on Gen. MCCLELLAN'S Staff.

INGENUITY OF A REBEL SWINDLER.

PARKER H. FRENCH, the swindler, who was BILLY WALKER'S Minister to the United States, and who is now in Fort Warren on a charge of treason, exhibited great ingenuity in his schemes. Starting with a certificate of church membership in Philadelphia, he obtained an *entrée* into the religious circles of other cities, where, by his representations of wealth, his loud professions of loyalty, and his liberal subscriptions to sustain the cause of the Union, he obtained the confidence of influential circles, who were familiar with the disposition of our troops, their numbers and the general plans of the war. When the time came for the payment of his subscription he was elsewhere. His *aliases* were Carlisle Murray, Charles Maxcy and Christopher Monroe, each for different cities, and the initials C. M. attached to dispatches and letters directed to leading men, deceived others as to his real character. Letters have been received by Northern men engaged in forwarding the interests of the Government, from FRENCH, under one or the other of his *aliases*, asking in what way he could use his means to help the Government, and they, gladdened by his disinterested patriotism, would reply, stating various plans and confiding to him important secrets. He did some swindling in a small way, by collecting subscriptions for sick and disabled soldiers and their families, by which he kept himself in spending money. He had lists of wealthy men in different cities upon whom to call, with significant words written opposite their names—as "religious," "Abolitionist," "Union," &c.—showing a knowledge, on his part, of their peculiar hobbies, and, as it was important that he should stand well with both sides, he had in his possession a certificate signed by the Georgetown (S. C.) Vigilance Committee, which stated that he was a trustworthy Southern-rights man, in whom they placed implicit confidence. These are but samples of his ingenious devices.

SICK OF THE REBEL SERVICE.

On one of the recent visits of our flags of truce from Fortress Monroe, Rev. Dr. BALDWIN, of Troy, had a conversation with a rebel Virginia Captain, in which he asked of the Captain why it was that he remained in rebellion—that Virginia was sure to be in the Union within six weeks. The Captain replied that he was ready for the change, that he was sick of the service and the war.

LIQUOR AMONG THE SOLDIERS.

Men are daily arrested—many of them sutlers—while conveying liquor to our soldiers.

THE PENNSYLVANIA ELECTION FRAUDS.

J. O. TOBIAS, Esq., Commissioner appointed by the Philadelphia Courts to investigate alleged election frauds among the troops from that city, reports that he has obtained evidence that three companies returned as voting, did not vote. This changes the result in the cases of three councilmen, thereby giving the majority in the councils to the Democrats.

JACKSON'S CLOTHES FOUND.

The clothes of JACKSON, the murderer of ELLSWORTH, were found last week in the house of Ex-Senator THOMAS, in Alexandria.

APPOINTMENTS.

Admiral ZERMAN, who was recently in Maj-Gen. FREMONT'S staff, and accompanied him on his march to Springfield, Mo., has been appointed Inspector General of the first Divison of the Department of the West, his commission dating Nov. 1. ZERMAN is a native of the Island of Corsica, has spent his life in the profession of arms, serving—among other places in Mexico, and more recently under GARABALDI in Italy.

Col. THOMAS TURNER, of Illinois, acting Major-General, commanding HUNTER'S Division, was on the 18th inst. appointed Brigadier General of Volunteers.

FRAUDS IN WISCONSIN.

I am informed that the Van Wyck Committee are to make a supplementary report, in which charges are made of frauds in the transportation of the Wisconsin troops, and in which some of the Colonels are implicated.

CHANGES IN ARMY UNIFORMS.

A general order is to be issued making important changes in the uniforms of our troops. Sky blue cloth is to be substituted for dark blue for the pants of officers and privates of the Cavalry, Artillery and Infantry arms of service. In place of light blue welts and stripes now used, dark blue is to be substituted, and infantry and artillery officers are permitted to wear a sky blue cavalry overcoat, the peculiarity of which is a large cape. This change is made as a measure of economy, as the saving in the cost of indigo by it is three-quarters of a million of dollars.

NEWS FROM FORTRESS MONROE.

Extracts from Rebel Papers—The Movements in Kentucky—Attempted Bridge Burning in Georgia, &c.

FORTRESS MONROE, Dec. 24, *via* BALTIMORE, 25th.

The steam-transport *Ericsson* sailed for New-York early this morning.

A flag of truce sent out yesterday afternoon did not return till evening, on account of the high wind. Thirty-two passengers were brought down from Norfolk, most of them ladies and children.

We take the following news from yesterday's papers:

"A dispatch, dated Nashville, 22d inst., announces that 9,000 Federals have crossed Green River, and are marching to Hopkinsville. The Confederate force there is 3,500, but reinforcements are on their way from Clarksville.

Passengers from Bowling Green say that 17,000 Federals crossed Green River on Friday.

It is supposed that Bowling Green will be advanced upon from three sides simultaneously with a force of 60,000 men, and that a decisive battle will be fought there.

A dispatch from Savannah says that seven old whalers of the Stone fleet were sunk in the Charleston channel on Friday last.

The Tennessee Legislature adjourned on the 21st inst. to the 20th of January.

The resolutions in relation to the secession of Maryland to the Southern Confederacy have been modified by the Confederate Congress, so as to declare that no peace ought to be concluded with the United States which does not insure to Maryland an opportunity of forming a part of the Confederacy.

A private dispatch received at Richmond on Sunday, says that the steamer *Gordon* has run the blockade into one of the Southern ports, with a cargo reported to consist of coffee, salt and West India fruits.

One hundred and seventy-five Federal prisoners were expected to leave Richmond on Monday, for Salisbury, N. C., and another party some time during the week.

The Richmond *Examiner* admits that the battle of Drainesville was no inconsiderable disaster.

The Virginia Legislature has adjourned to the 6th of January.

The Rome (Geo.) *Southerner* says that an attempt was made on the 16th inst. to burn the State Railroad bridge over Petis Creek. The incendiary, however, was caught, tried and sentenced to be hung.

All the Charleston Insurance Companies, except the Elmore, have gone into liquidation.

In Richmond, Exchange on New-York is at 6@6¾ ₰ cent. Silver is selling at 25 ₰ cent., and Gold at 35 ₰ cent. premium. Sales of Confederate Bonds of the fifteen million loan issue were being made at ninety-nine."

The rebels crossed New-Market bridge this morning and burnt a house.

A dispatch was received at headquarters this afternoon announcing that a skirmish was going on between our troops and the rebels, but it was subsequently contradicted.

The Twentieth New-York Regiment, however, was sent out immediately and firing has been heard here since, but it is thought no fighting has taken place.

INTERESTING FROM NASSAU, N. P.

CONTRABAND TRADE WITH THE SOUTHERN PORTS.

From Capt. BAIN, late of brig *Forest City*, who came passenger from Nassau, N. P., we have advices from Nassau to Dec. 11. The schooner *Prince of Wales*, from Charleston, with cotton, arrived on the 7th, (since captured); also, sloop *Noank*, with rice; steamer *Isabel*, on the 8th, with cotton; steamer *Gordon*, on the 9th, with cotton; also, the steamer *Gladiator*, from Liverpool, with firearms and ammunition—all of which vessels were warmly welcomed. They came in flying the secession flag. It was rumored that the authorities would not allow the *Gladiator* to land her firearms.

A full rigged brig, from Liverpool, with a cargo of salt, also arrived. The Captain came into Nassau for a pilot to assist him to run the blockade. The *Lady Adger*, also arrived from Philadelphia. The schooner *Caleb Stetson*, ROBINSON, and schooner *E. W. Perry*, ADAMS, from Philadelphia, coal loaded, arrived, but would not be allowed to land cargo for war purposes, and they were obliged to lay off the port.

On the 11th, an American steamer arrived off the bar. She was supposed to be a gunboat. Also, a ship, flying British colors; but report said she was the *Eliza Bensill*, from Havana, coming to Nassau for cotton. There was also in port barkantine *Marianna*,(?) Capt. SMITH, from St. Thomas, for London.

THE TRANSPORT SERVICE.

The United States transport schooners *M. W. Smith*, *W. H. Smith*, *Mott Bedell* and *Francis Satterly*, lying at the Government Dock foot of Murray-street, are now loading stores for Locust Point. They will carry on an average about 250 tons each.

The United States steam transport *Curlew*, lying at Pier No. 9, North River, is also loading for Locust Point. Her cargo consists of provisions, gun-carriages and military clothing. She will sail to-day.

SAILING OF THE STORESHIP RELEASE.

UNITED STATES STORESHIP RELEASE,
BOSTON BAY, Monday, Dec. 23, 1861.

The United States storeship *Release*, after having filled with stores, sailed to-day for Port Royal with stores for the fleet. Her officers are: Lieutenant-Commanding, Daniel P. Upton, of Boston; Acting Masters, John P. Goodmanson, of New-York, Samuel Teaton, of New-Hampshire, Wm. G. Nutting, of Salem, Mass.; Assistant Paymaster, Benj. F. Camp, of New-York; Assistant Surgeon, A. D. Markley, of Pennsylvania; Paymaster's Clerk, Charles T. Float, of New-York. She anchored in Nantucket Roads over night, but proceeded the next morning to sea, a heavy gale blowing from the Northwest.

THE SUNKEN FLEET.

The Main Channel to Charleston Harbor Destroyed.

Sixteen of the Stone Fleet Sunk Across It.

INTERESTING DETAILS OF THE EXPEDITION

HOW THE WORK WAS ACCOMPLISHED.

THE HULKS SUNK CHECKERWISE.

The Charlestonians Taking Observations at a Distance.

Special Correspondence of the New-York Times.

STEAMSHIP CAHAWBA, OFF CHARLESTON,
Saturday, Dec. 21, 1861.

The main channel of approach to Charleston harbor has been destroyed. Sixteen stone-filled hulks, placed checkerwise across the passage, in the deepest water, just at the inner and outer edges of the bar, are the mediums through which this righteous retribution has been measured out. Thus another strong blow has fallen upon the headstrong people of South Carolina, the effect of which must be more humiliating than any they have yet received. They have no means of resenting it, and their haughty rebellious spirits must fret and chafe beneath the weight of the heavy hand which has been laid upon them.

The vessels which have been sunk left Port Royal last Tuesday, under the direction of Fleet Capt. CHARLES H. DAVIS, of the *Wabash*. They were nearly all condemned whalers—some of them sixty and seventy years of age—the queerest, quaintest specimens of ship-building afloat. Lazily, one by one, under the influence of a strong ebb-tide, these antiquated craft dropped out toward the bar, each anchoring where she happened to be when the flood-tide set in. The steam transports *Cahawba*, *Philadelphia* and *Ericsson* were detailed to accompany the expedition, and the steam frigate *Mohican*, and gunboats *Pocahontas* and *Ottawa* were appointed to convoy it.

Capt. DAVIS selected the *Cahawba*, Capt. BAKER, as his flag ship, and permitted those who had any claim to be present during the contemplated operations, to be on board his vessel. Your correspondent was fortunate enough to be included in that category, and my observations must therefore be accepted as having been made from her deck.

Leaving our anchorage at 2 o'clock, our first care, in conjunction with the *Philadelphia*, the naval tugboats *Mercury* and *O. M. Pettit*, and the gunboats, was to concentrate the straggling Stone Fleet without the bar, that we might be prepared for early departure. The work was laborious, and night had overtaken us ere its completion; but I cannot dismiss the day without mentioning some of its incidents.

The weather was delightful. A soft breeze from the northwest agreeably tempered the heat of the sun, but would have had no more influence in pushing the bluff whalemen through an opposing tide than a breath from human lungs. The sky was belted around the horizon by an exquisite purple haze; and the water, far and near, presented a busy scene, as the many steamers passed and repassed with their tows. Adding to the picturesqueness of the scene were the tents and store-houses on the distant shore, and the fleet of transports and naval vessels at anchor in the inner roadstead, among which the grim outlines of the *Wabash* loomed mightily preëminent. And the sunset, too, was splendid. He passed out of sight, looking like a huge fire-balloon, sinking into an amber-colored ocean, and soon afterward the full moon rose in rival redness directly opposite the point at which he had disappeared.

A shade of pathos, however, cast a subduing tint over this charming picture. Who could help feeling melancholy at the reflection that the poor old vessels, which had traversed so many thousands of miles of ocean, safely carrying human beings amid Pacific calms and Arctic colds through long years of dreary, tedious whaling voyages, were to be relentlessly destroyed? How venerable the doomed things now appeared! Short, broad, square-sterned, bluff-bowed—rigged as snips and barks—yet not one of them larger than the ordinary schooners of the present day. Spars strangely tall and tapering like whip-handles. Sides weather-stained, and painted in imitation of ports, some of them sheathed with pine planks to prevent leakage which could not be prevented by caulking because of the rottenness of the original wood. Queer old tubs, with queer fittings up, and quaint names set in elaborate beds of quaint carved work. Yet many of these fossil vessels were celebrated in their time. The fortunes of the Tabers, the Howlands, the Sims', Swifts, Coffins, Starbucks, and many other New-England families have been created from their voyages. Some of them have been known as "lucky ships," and as such, old whalemen have cherished them, patching and repairing the hulls until scarce a plank or timber of the original vessel remained. Each of them has a history, and thousands of reasons suggest themselves why the worn-out hulks, still accounted seaworthy enough to voyage hither from New-Bedford, New-London, Providence and Nantucket, should be saved the fate in store for them.

But away with sentiment. The old vessels are to be destroyed in the performance of a patriotic duty, and even when they are gone, their usefulness survives.

Here are the names of our squadron:

Archer,	Maria Theresa,
American,	Robin Hood,
Courier,	Herald,
Rebecca,	Tenedos,
Sims,	Leonidas,
Richmond,	William Lee,
Kensington,	Fortune,
Potomac,	Amazon.

Coming out of Port Royal, it was amusing to hear the excuses of the "skippers," when they were told to get under weigh. Master GEORGE H. BRADBURY, of the United States steamer *Susquehannah*, better known in New-York as having commanded the *David Brown*, *N. B. Palmer*, and other first-class clippers, who had been detached to assist Capt. DAVIS, because of his especial fitness for the duty, did all the hailing and gave the orders.

Some very interesting replies were given. One Captain said that his main-rigging was all gone; another that his rudder was not safe; a third that he had to keep "milking" (pumping) constantly; and all wanted to be towed to the point of destination. Whether the Captains were frightened at the notion of going to Charleston, or considered their vessels unseaworthy, it is certain that none would have hesitated in going ashore rather than to retain the honor of commanding for another hour.

A rather unpleasant circumstance happened while we were engaged in towing the vessels to the anchorage outside the bar. It was growing late, and Capt. DAVIS being desirous to get the ships together before dark, requested Mr. BRADBURY to hail the steamer *Daniel Webster*, which was coming out of the harbor, and ask the captain to take one of the ships out with him. The favor was courteously asked, but greatly to the astonishment of everybody, Capt. JOHNSON, in reply, bellowed out, "I'll see you d—d first! I'm going to New-York." After a pause he added, "Anything I can do for you there?" He was, of course answered in the negative. It is to be hoped that such impolite captains are rare.

On Wednesday morning the fleet made an early start for Charleston. The wind was light but favorable, and the vessels, under full sail, presented a beautiful appearance, which, as a spectacle at sea, was scarcely inferior to that of the great expedition. Here the graceful outlines of square rigged vessels under canvas, were substituted for the angular stiffness of steamships. The *Cahawba* took the *Tenedos* and another ship in tow, the *Philadelphia* two others, and the *Ericsson* burdened herself with three. The rest followed with the *Pocahontas* and *Mohican* bringing up the rear. This order was not long retained, however, for the steamers by no possibility could "slow down" to the snail's pace of some of the whalers, and left them to get along as best they might.

Nothing specially interesting marked the trip up. The *Cahawba* was the first vessel to sight Charleston light, and the vessels of the blockading fleet. The gunboats were with us, and the *Philadelphia*, with her tow, a few miles behind. We anchored at the edge of the bar about 5 o'clock, and for the first time my eyes looked upon Fort Sumter, whose massive outlines seemed magnified indefinitely by the hazy atmosphere.

Soon the *Philadelphia* came up, and a boat from her dropped alongside of our vessel. The steamer had been sent with the expedition for the purpose of taking North a portion of the crews of the sunken vessels, and the *Ericsson* accompanied us with the same object. Finding that his coal would not hold out more than three days, the captain of the *Philadelphia* requested that he might be allowed to go directly on, and Capt. DAVIS accorded the permission, knowing that the *Ericsson* could furnish accommodations for the crews. For some unexplained reason, however, the *Ericsson* did not stop here. She left her tows, and went on during the night without being courteous enough even to make a report to Capt. DAVIS of her arrival. In consequence of these circumstances, the *Cahawba* had to receive all these passengers, 221 in number, and carry them back to Port Royal. Capt. BAKER was not displeased at this unexpected call upon his hospitality. Thanks to his well-stocked storerooms, he could entertain handsomely, and beyond a temporary inconvenience, no harm has resulted.

On Wednesday night, soundings were taken by Mr. BRADBURY, assisted by Mr. JOHN W. GODFREY, one of the Government pilots at Port Royal, who is familiar with every sand knoll and bar in these waters, for the purpose of ascertaining the precise locations in which to sink the vessels. It was then discovered that the rebels had shifted the channel buoys, probably under the apprehension of a naval attack.

On Thursday morning, the light-house, which had loomed vastly through the haze the evening before, was not to be seen; but a look through our glasses showed us its ruins on the ground. The fact explained a loud explosion which had been heard inshore soon after dark.

Supposing that our whalers were first-class frigates come to bombard the city, the rebels had blown the light-house up, that the bearings of the channel might be lost. The trick hurt nobody except themselves, but after all, light houses henceforth will be useless establishments at Charleston.

At 3 o'clock on Thursday afternoon, the channel had been buoyed, and the old *Tenedos* was soon afterward towed to her final moorings. The position chosen for her was at the northeastern edge of the passage, and she grounded where there is eighteen feet of water at high tide. Probably she is anchored as firmly as her island namesake of the Ægean Sea. The *Leonidas* was next sunk, in the same depth of water, an eighth of a mile distant from the other. These two vessels formed the right and left flanks of the barricading column, and the remaining fourteen settled comfortably down between them.

The wrecks are not ranged in a straight line across the channel. That arrangement might prove an effective blockade for a time, but not permanently. The theory of Capt. DAVIS was, that the inland waters about Charleston must have a channel to the sea, and if the usual one were artificially closed, another would naturally form. His scientific mind devised another plan. The hulks are placed in three lines, checkerwise. This arrangement not only does not prevent the passage of the water, but forms a series of shoals, around which the tide will whirl and eddy, making an intricate labyrinth which no vessel could navigate.

The vessels were not all scuttled until Friday morning, as it was necessary to work at full tide. They looked desolate enough, as they lay upon their bilges, masts and rigging still standing, some listed to port and others to starboard, all presenting a confused appearance, comparable to nothing but a fleet at anchor and left aground by the tide. The *Pocahontas* and *Ottawa* rendered excellent service in drawing the vessels to their positions. They are as managable as the pigmiest tug. A very brilliant manœuvre was performed with the former vessel by Mr. BRADBURY. Only one vessel, the *Archer*, remained, and to place her in the gap Mr. BRADBURY found it necessary to run the *Pocahontas* into the tortuous passages between the hulks, whose inclined masts and projecting jibbooms looked forbidding. It was successfully done, though a moment's hesitation or the slightest error in judgment would have resulted in a collision. The fleet was filled with admiration at a feat which very few men and fewer vessels could have performed. All of these wrecks were prepared for quick scuttling before leaving the North. Nothing was required but to drive out a plug and the water rushed in with force enough to fill them in an hour.

The Charlestonians must have felt themselves chagrined beyond measure at the mischief which had been done them. The wrecks were sunk about two miles and a half from shore, in plain sight from the batteries on Morris Island, Forts Sumter and Moultrie, from the flagstaffs of which the rebel colors were visible. A small steamer also made several reconnoissances from behind Fort Sumter, where she would quickly retreat when our men-of-war moved as if to chase her. Realizing her helplessness, she did not give us a shot, though it has been usual for her to fire toward the blockading vessels at a much further distance than she ventured at now.

At low water on Friday the ships' crews returned to them and cut away their masts and rigging, in order that it might drift to sea; for it was no part of our plan that any of this property should fall into the hands of the rebels. It was a singular sight to see the big spars topple over with a crash and a creak as soon as the rigging was severed by a few blows of an axe. It would have driven a New-York junkman mad to have seen the quantity of valuable ropes, sails, blocks and iron work which were ruthlessly destroyed. The whale-boats and some of the best sails were all that could be saved. The *Robin Hood* was the last vessel sunk. She had been used as a storehouse for the valuables which were taken from the others. This ship hailed from New-London, Conn. Her owner must have been a waggish fellow. In utter violation of euphony, he had absurdly curtailed the fair proportions of this old forester's name to *R. Hood*, which stared in big, carved letters, painted to imitate gold, from each quarter of the vessel. One of these I secured, and shall probably send it to BARNUM, to serve the double purpose of a memento of the blockade and a specimen of quiet wit.

It is not often that persons are permitted to destroy valuable property, and feel at the same time that they are doing right. On this occasion, however, such a sentiment could be properly entertained, and from the energy which the jack tars displayed in using their axes, I am inclined to think that they considered the privilege one to be thoroughly enjoyed. Smashing things was a luxury, and the inclination to indulge in it was gratified without stint. After everything that could be saved was taken from the *Robin Hood*, her rigging was cut and "frapped," or secured to the masts, in order to make an illumination and pyrotechnic display worthy of the successful issue of the expedition. She was fired early in the evening, and her burning afforded a novel and beautiful sight to most of those who witnessed it. The blockading squadron was especially entertained. Their lives are such a dull and tedious round of monotony that a far less magnificent spectacle would have afforded them a topic of conversation for a month.

The weather during the whole time consumed by the expedition was most favorable. Had it not been so the work could not have been performed. The undertaking was accomplished without an accident, and the entire arrangement reflects alike the greatest praise upon Captain DAVIS for the prudence and wisdom of his plans, and upon his able assistants for the masterly manner in which they were executed.

Commander GOLDSBOROUGH, of the *Florida*, on the blockade, informed us that about two weeks ago a fearful con

FROM THE REBEL STATES.

Particulars of the Attack Upon Matamoras.

DISCONTENT AT THE PROSPECTS IN KENTUCKY.

GOV. BROWN, OF GEORGIA, IN TROUBLE.

GALVESTON, TEXAS, DECLARED UNTENABLE.

THE FIGHT AT MATAMORAS.

From the Brownsville (Texas) Flag, Nov. 21.

Gen. CARAVAJAL, as our readers will remember, appeared in front of Matamoras at the head of the State troops, on Wednesday, the 15th inst., and the people of the town at once raised the black flag, with an inscription upon it that no communication would be held with the assailants. CARAVAJAL then pitched his camp at a farm about five miles from Matamoras, and set about perfecting his plan of attack, and drilling and arming his forces.

On Friday, Gen. GARCIA who was supposed to be in Tampico, suddenly marched into Matamoras at the head of a troop variously estimated at from 150 to 600 cavalry. His presence seemed to infuse confidence at once, for the population which was flying to this side of the river, at once set back to Matamoras, and the people in the city began fortifying the city in the most secure manner.

Barricades were built across the streets leading out of the main plaza, or public square, and forts were hastily thrown up at many places three or four squares from the main plaza.

In the meantime, the preliminary measures of communicating with the foreign Consuls, and of warning the foreign residents, were duly observed. In this connection, we understand that at one time, Gen. CARAVAJAL declared that he would not be responsible for the lives or properties of foreigners remaining in the town; but remonstrances made from our authorities, who were appealed to in the matter, produced an alteration in this respect, and foreigners were required to make signals to signify their property, and it would be respected.

These necessary details being consummated, on Wednesday morning the attack commenced, CARAVAJAL having moved his camp nearer to town. The attack was commenced with a cavalry charge upon the upper end of the city, in the neighborhood of the cemetery, the assaulting column being led by Commanders PENA, ALBERTTS and MANSE. Citizens of Brownsville who heard the assault state that it sounded as if three thousand muskets had exploded at once. In the midst of the terrible rattle of musketry the advancing column shouted with enthusiastic gusto, "VIVA PENA!" "VIVA TRIVINO!" "VIVA CARAVAJAL!" The response of the citizens of Matamoras rolled back over the roar of battle, "VIVA GARCIA!" "VIVA CAPISTRAN!" "Death to the Traitors!"

In the meantime the ferries leading from Brownsville to Matamoras were put under military surveillance, and communication between the right and left bank of the Rio Grande could only be had by written passports from Lieut. Colonel BUCHEL, of Fort Brown, and from the authorities of Matamoras. Sentinels were stationed on the boats, and the line of communication was entirely broken, as the prudence of Lieut. Colonel BUCHEL dictated that but few of our citizens should be permitted to mingle in the unfortunate difficulty in progress among our neighbors.

The attacking force, according to the meagre details which we have been enabled to gather, made great way towards the main plaza, at the outset, driving the enemy before them up to within three squares of the public plaza. The time was then occupied until daylight in selecting positions and bringing up the reserves for the onset of the morning. However, there was a continuous roar of musketry all the time, the two parties having stationed skirmishers and observers at different points on the roofs of the houses.

Our people assembled in the greatest excitement, and in the largest multitudes on the river bank, straining their eyes out to catch a sight of the flashes of musketry, and bending their ears to hear the roar of fire-arms and the shooting of the different parties. Conjecture ran wild with the number of the warriors, with the intentions of the assailants, and the determination of the defenders. Parties took sides at once, and bets were offered and taken upon the defence and the assault.

As daylight broke upon the scene of conflict, hundreds of our citizens sought the tops of houses, lined the banks of the river, and raised themselves to the tops of trees, to catch a glance of the exciting tragedy being played to the shouting actors in our neighboring city.

Gen. CARAVAJAL, in his first entry into the city, hailed some of our citizens on the Texas side of the river, at Freeport, and informed them that he intended to take the town or die in the attempt—that he had an adequate force already in action, and that he had 1,400 fresh men in reserve. And to tell the truth, his force seemed interminable as it deployed through the by-paths into full view on the river bank.

The Rojos (CARAVAJAL'S party,) commenced a forward movement at an early hour after daylight, and in a short time the force inside the city was completely surrounded, being hemmed in at the plaza. Barricades erected for the defence of the town were taken at the corner known as Albino Lopez's store, and also in front of the new theatre. We understand that a small piece of artillery was captured at the first mentioned barricade.

The fight continued with varied success from daylight till almost 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon, when the cavalry force of Gen. GARCIA sallied forth and drove the assailants back towards the river. In this contest the defenders of the town presaged their sally by throwing a few bomb-shells into CARAVAJAL'S quarters, opposite Freeport; and having created something of a confusion among the Rojos, they made the successful sally. The contestants approached so near the river that their death-dealing missiles fell upon our side of the stream, creating quite a stampede amongst the crowds assembled on the bank. The sally was short-lived, however, for the lines soon closed up again, and the Rojos were left masters of the situation, so far as the suburbs of the town were concerned.

The discharges of musketry were incessant during the day, but with cessations in their rapidity at different intervals. Both parties seemed to be deficient in artillery, as there were but few reports of cannon heard during the day.

Towards the close of the afternoon of yesterday, it is said that a mine was exploded in one of the streets, doing considerable damage to the Rojos. Immediately after, a large smoke was seen to rise from the town, which we believe to be the dwelling of YERDOE SOLES, which was fired by the Rojos for strategic reasons.

The consular flags are flying over the city in every direction, and among the number we may notice that of the United States. When our boys saw that, and when it was reported that a party, under CARAVAJAL, had raised it, we all felt like fighting; but Capt. DONNELSON rode down the river bank, and demanded an explanation from an officer on the Mexican side, who stated that it was the flag over the United States consular residence, and that it was recognized on the same ground that the Confederate flag was respected.

Judge BIGELOW, late on the afternoon of yesterday, obtained a passport and visited the camp of CARAVAJAL, where he was well received.

The light of the burning houses was visible on our side of the river late last night.

It is stated that considerable carnage has taken place on both sides, and that the Rojos have applied to Lieut.-Col. BUCHEL for privilege to bring their wounded on this side of the Rio Grande. Col. BUCHEL, Major GRAT, and other officers of Fort Brown, have acted with the greatest discretion during the continuance of the fight, and so far no bad blood has been stirred up on our side.

Both parties claim the chances of success at the hour of going to press.

GALVESTON UNTENABLE.

We learn from the Houston *Telegraph* of the 2d inst., that a council of war was held at Galveston on the Wednesday previous, the result of which has not definitely transpired. "It is rumored, however, that the conclusion arrived at, is that Galveston is untenable. In support of this rumor, the batteries on the beach have been removed, the powder and other munitions of war on the island have been taken to a place of greater security; a portion of the public records have been removed, and a building has been rented in this city to be used as a hospital, to which the sick in the Galveston hospital have been removed. So much for the action of the public authorities? Private parties are also migrating to a place of greater security, a number of whom came up to this city on the train Saturday. The Galveston *News* has rented an office in this city, and will soon remove here? All these things point to one direction, and leave but little room for doubt or conjecture. We must say that it is a little singular that our Galveston cotemporaries have not mentioned one word of these things. They must think to keep the enemy in ignorance by their silence, but experience has taught us that when a thing has become 'town talk,' the enemy find it out without the aid of newspapers. We believe in letting our people know what is transpiring affecting their interests, when the knowledge can serve them more than it will benefit the enemy, even at the risk of informing the enemy of it through our columns which in this instance we do not think at all likely."

KENTUCKY.

REPORTED ADVANCE OF THE NATIONAL FORCES.

From the Nashville Banner, Dec. 7.

Every report from Bowling Green seems to indicate a resolve to go into Winter quarters. To do this without a single effort towards the redemption of Kentucky, will be nothing more nor less than a downright disgrace to our arms. It will entirely destroy all confidence in Gen. JOHNSTON, and fatally impair his usefulness in the future. It will weaken, discourage, and prostrate utterly the noble schemes which inspire the brave men who are now rallying to the relief of a neighbor State, and blacken the fair hopes which we cherish for the release of a loved and honored sister from bondage. It will lose us Kentucky forever, and seriously endanger our own borders whenever the Spring campaign opens.

Can it be possible that Gen. JOHNSTON will so misapply his great trust?

We have heard some queer notions mentioned as reasons for this masterly inactivity. Among others equally absurd, it is alleged that a passive quietude on our part throughout the Winter months, will operate with annihilating power on the enemy, that it will discourage and demoralize them, and that before the new season their condition will be so rotten, as will offer an easy victory. God help the authors of such a theory. A more stupendous folly never originated in an old maid's pate, or arose over a grandmother's snuff-box. The very reverse is the case. The enemy is the party which can afford to wait. They are composed of men whose services are employed at a fair valuation. They enlist for pay, and so long as they receive their regular hire, a snug inactivity in camp or quarters is all the better for them.

In the name of common sense, how are we to demoralize the enemy by refusing to fight him? Truly, a new piece of philosophy under the sun.

He already holds four-fifths of Kentucky. Why should he advance? He certainly has a plausible excuse not to do so. Perhaps he is not ready yet for the conquest of Tennessee. Very probably he is not yet sure of his foothold in Kentucky. There may be a hundred reasons for his holding back. There is not one for us, and we are losing time and missing chances every day that we hesitate and delay.

Will Gen. JOHNSTON advance? HUMPHREY MARSHALL is doing so, and with success. He is taking the wind clear out of his senior's sail. BRECKINRIDGE and BUCKNER are dying to help him. If Gen. JOHNSTON will not advance himself, can he not be induced to permit others to do so?

The people are clamoring for it. The Press all over the South are urging it. A soldier's reputation is involved in it. The public interests require it. Will Gen. JOHNSTON bind all these exigencies, hand and foot, and stand, glum and mute, and cold, and stark, like a frozen pump, until the Spring thaw?

We do not doubt that the convention which organized a provisional government for Kentucky based its action upon the expectation of a speedy advance. It must have been foreseen by the able men who composed that body that unless the jurisdiction of the system put into operation were extended, their work would inevitably prove a farce, and, in the end, turn out a failure. Their idea was, beyond a question, to expand their sphere with the progress of our army so as to include such a portion of their State as would give a show of reason and authority to all their acts.

If they had not anticipated a forward movement, and at least a chance to execute their purpose, we do not believe they would have attempted to usher a State Government into such an existence as it must eke out if Gen. JOHNSTON continues his mistaken procrastination.

At present, it is altogether a nominal affair. It extends merely along the border of Tennessee. It is pinned against the wall, like a butterfly in a laboratory, and, if it does not die of its wounds, will surely stifle before the Winter is out, from a confined, unwholesome atmosphere. If it have life and vigor, it must have room to grow in and air to breathe in. It must not be choked up within narrow military lines, with the camp fevers and measles, mud and rust of Winter quarters and cold weather.

Whence will it secure the wherewithal to keep body and soul together? Where will it find a revenue? How will it establish credit? What guarantees can it offer for the future? Who will trust it or obey it?

These are stubborn questions, and a great deal hangs upon the way they are answered.

But charity begins at home. So it does. The first duty, therefore, of Tennessee, as a measure of self-preservation, is to secure Kentucky as an ally and friend. The point is plain and self-evident.

The liberation of Kentucky is our whole aim. How have we fulfilled it? Have we made an effort to fulfill it? Not one, so far as we have seen. We have lagged and delayed until the veriest drones are growing impatient for some activity, as an evidence, at least, of some remaining life.

REBEL MOVEMENTS.

The Bowling Green correspondent of the Nashville *Union and American*, writing on the 10th, says:

"The war policy to be pursued by the Confederates occupying this portion of the State is an enigma, the solution of which cannot be easily arrived at. The latest movement but one, which has been made since the return of BRECKINRIDGE'S brigade from Russellville, was that of Saturday last, when the same command moved from their old camping-ground to a woods distant about three miles from town, where trees are being felled, huts erected, and everything necessary for the establishment of comfortable winter quarters are being prepered.

Gen. HINDMAN'S legion, together with two additional regiments detached from HARDEE'S division were ordered to Green River yesterday, and will probably occupy the same position near Munfordsville as that held by the Kentucky brigade upon the advent of Confederate troops into the State over three months since. The public at large can as readily and with as much accuracy arrive at a probable conclusion of the meaning of two columns of a portion of the army moving in different directions, one evidently making arrangements for remaining here during the Winter, the other apparently the advance guard of a forward movement—as can any of the pretended wiseacres of this place.

Again another move was made last evening—the sending of Col. SCOTT'S Louisiana Cavalry to Russellville, at which point they will undoubtedly remain during the Winter, in order to check or give timely warning of any actual or meditated advance that may be made or feigned by CRITTENDEN. Seeing that Gen. BUELL is timerous of attacking this place, and that no immediate Federal advance is to be made upon it, the gage of battle may be offered them in the vicinity of their present encampments north of Green River—at least such a conjecture is plausible when taken in connection with the fact that a few days since one of our Generals remarked that "we will not all go into Winter quarters."

REPORT OF A DESERTER.

The Bowling Green correspondent of the Nashville *Banner*, under date of the 10th, says a gentleman of high intelligence, who had been an officer in Gen. T. L. CRITTENDEN'S command, had arrived at Bowling Green, after having deserted, and the writer gives a column of information obtained from the aforesaid gentleman of "high intelligence." The same writer, under date of the 6th inst., says:

The Provisional Government is at work in council here, with energy and spirit. They have put the machinery of Government thoroughly in operation. They have passed a measure requiring all moneys collected for license from taverns, saloons, brokers, etc., to be paid to the Provisional Government Treasurer. The former sheriff of our county refuses to act as sheriff under the new order of things. His successor has been appointed, and will assume the duties of his office on Monday next. It is presumed that most of the old officials will be superseded.

THE ACT ADMITTING KENTUCKY.

The following is the act passed by the Confederate Congress in secret session, already alluded to by the telegraph:

An Act for the Admission of the State of Kentucky into the Confederate States of America as a member thereof,

SECTION 1. The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That the State of Kentucky be and is hereby admitted a member of the Confederate States of America, on an equal footing with the other States of this Confederacy.

FROM COLUMBUS.

From the Memphis Appeal, Dec. 14.

From a gentleman who reached the city yesterday, by river, we learn that in consequence of intelligence received at Columbus Wednesday night, from Camp Beauregard, at Feliciana, accompanied by a request for reinforcements, two regiments were sent down early Thursday morning to join Gen. BOWEN'S command. One of these was from Mississippi, the other from Louisiana. Late on Thursday afternoon Col. PRESTON SMITH'S Tennessee Regiment was sent to the same destination. The rolling stock of the railroad was used in the transportation of troops, consequently passengers from Columbus were compelled to come by river. Our informant made the trip to this city on one of the government boats in twelve hours. The impression at Columbus, when he left, was that a fight at Feliciana was imminent.

THE REBEL CONGRESSMEN.

From the Louisville Nashville Courier. Dec. 16.

The Legislative Council, at its session on Saturday, elected the following gentlemen as Delegates from Kentucky to the Provisional Congress of the Confederate States:

Dist.		Dist.	
1.	Henry C. Burnett,	6.	Jno. M. Elliott,
2.	John Thomas,	7.	S. H. Ford,
3.	Geo. W. Ewing,	8.	Thos. B. Monroe,
4.	Dr. D. V. White,	9.	Thos. Johnson,
5.	T. L. Burnett,	10.	Geo. B. Hodge.

PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF KENTUCKY.

The following document appears in the Nashville-Louisville *Courier*:

Be it enacted by the Council of the Provisional Government of the State of Kentucky:

SECTION 1. That the Governor be, and he is hereby authorized to receive into the service of this Government any number of volunteer, infantry or cavalry, companies not exceeding twenty.

SEC. 2. Said companies shall consist each of not less than seventy-eight, nor more than one hundred and five, rank and file.

SEC. 3. Said volunteers to serve not less than twelve months, unless sooner discharged.

SEC. 4. Said companies to be officered as now provided by law.

SEC. 5. The officers and privates composing said companies to receive the same pay as the officers and privates in the Confederate service now respectively receive.

SEC. 6. The volunteers hereby authorized to be received shall be subject to the articles of war as authorized by the Confederate States, and to all laws hereafter passed for the regulation and government of the army and militia of Kentucky.

W. B. MACHEN, President of the Council.
Approved Dec. 4, 1861. GEORGE W. JOHNSON.
By the Governor:
R. MCKEE, Secretary of State.

TENNESSEE.

The Nashville *Banner* indulges in the following bit of irony in reference to the Tennessee Legislature:

"The Legislature have really agreed to adjourn on the 23d of this month. As much as this patriotic resolution gratifies us, it is due to candor to say we scarce expected it. We still think that some of the patriotic members of that body must have sacrificed themseves or been immolated thereby upon the altar of their country. If such there be, it would be a good idea for some philanthropic individual, who does not care much for his record, and expects to stay at home the balance of his life any way, to move a reconsideration of the vote of adjournment; or cannot some miscellaneous lover of mankind manage to get up a sensation, or 'a little more important business,' to keep our General Assembly with us a while longer, and cost the State a few thousand dollars extra? Our finances are so flush just now that we can afford a little margin to legislative extravagance."

SIGNS OF REBELLION.

We regret to say that considerable evidence of disloyalty to the Confederate Government has been manifested in some of the counties in West Tennessee, since the call upon the militia was made, one county [Carroll] having gone so far, we learn, as positively to refuse to submit to the detail. In Weakly County also, [EM. ETHERIDGE'S county,] we learn there was trouble on Monday last, which led to the fear that serious difficulties would occur there; but we understand that matters were settled peaceably, and without bloodshed, which was at one time apprehended.

In McNairy County, [JOHN V. WRIGHT'S county,] however, the disaffection seems to have reached its highest point, as we see from the West Tennessee *Whig*, that it was found necessary to send troops into that county, to arrest some of the authorities; and to send detachments of soldiers into some of the other counties for the same purpose.—*Trenton (Tenn.) Standard.*

MOVEMENTS ON THE COAST.

From the Charleston Courier, Dec. 9.

The news from Port Royal continues to be of the most gratifying character. The unanimity of our planters in the destruction of the cotton crops, the laying waste and burning of everything that would afford shelter or subsistence to the enemy where it cannot be otherwise defended, deprives them of the extensive spoils with which they have feasted their imagination, and the obtainment of which was one of their chief objects. Their mission in this respect will prove a most disastrous failure. They have gained little or nothing to satisfy them, and should they advance further, every inch of ground will be disputed with fire and sword, and the arms of a brave people.

Some of these thieving adventurers have lately made several visits to Port Royal, with the hope of securing rich plunder, but they were foiled and disappointed in their object by the timely steps taken to thwart them in their purposes. The prospects of paying the cost of their grand expedition by the sale of our cotton has been nipped in the bud.

They had visited various plantations around Port Royal, and already commenced the removal of the seed cotton.

We learn from a friend that on Wednesday night a mounted detachment of the Beaufort Artillery, under their captain, amounting to 22 men, passed over to the island, visited Beaufort, whose utter desolation and abandonment was relieved only by the presence of one light and the barking of a dog. There were no signs of the enemy, either on land or on water. Our men then proceeded to the work of destruction. The chief object of the expedition was to destroy the crops of cotton and provisions on Paris Island, which being near to the enemy, was crowded by the negroes who had flocked there to escape from the control of their owners. Owing to the absence of boats, this object was but partially effected. A canoe holding three men passed over from the battery, and soon consigned to the flames, on Dr. THOMAS FULLER'S plantation, seventy bales cotton and seven hundred bushels of corn. Returning to the battery plantation, the work was resumed, and the torch successively applied to the cotton of twelve other planters, while the contents of five barns were emptied by the negroes and consumed on the ground. Seventeen crops, amounting to nearly four hundred bales, were thus effectually removed from the fangs of the destroyer. The portions of the island most exposed are safe. The remainder can easily be secured—perhaps is already past their reach, as two distinct parties went over on Saturday night, and a large fire was visible near midnight.

Our planters in that neighborhood have vindicated most patriotically our cause. Scattered as they were in every direction, it was found impossible to act in combination. But an opportunity has now been offered, and they have cheerfully consigned to the flames the labors of the year.

Our enemies have received a great check to their ambition. Let them learn from the light of this conflagration, which must have startled them from their quiet security on board their ships, the spirit which animates our people, and read our firm resolve to employ every weapon of defence, and when other means fail, to fight them with *fire*.

From the Richmond Enquirer, Dec. 2.

The Richmond *Enquirer* of the 2d inst. has the following on the subject of affairs on the coast:

By a gentleman just from the South Carolina sea coast, we have some interesting particulars of the condition of affairs in that locality. It may be well supposed, that, under the able direction of Gen. LEE, nothing is being left undone to provide for the security of Charleston and Savannah. In both cities the military authorities have no apprehensions that the enemy will ever succeed in accomplishing any of their measures beyond the occupation of isolated points on the shore and in proximity to the guns of their ships.

The command of the sea-coast defences of South Carolina, Georgia, and Eastern Florida are vested in Gen. LEE. He is assisted by Brig.-Gens. RIPLEY, LAWTON, DRAYTON, and TRAPIER, of the Confederate army; Gens. CAPERS, HARRISON and WALKER, of Georgia; Gens. GONZALES, DESAUSSURE, and others, of South Carolina. All men of military capacity, and several particularly distinguished for excellence as engineers.

The number of troops on the coast is now fully adequate to cope with any force the enemy can probably send against us there. They will be able to repel invasions into the interior. Col. JAS. L. ORR'S regiment of rifles, a splendid body of men, 1,500 strong, occupies one of the islands. Col, THOS. L. CLINGMAN'S North Carolina regiment, 1,300 strong, is near by. Besides the troops Charleston has contributed to the twenty-five Confederate regiments from South Carolina, now in Virginia and at other localities, the indomitable city has two regiments of infantry, one regiment of riflemen, one regiment of artillery, and a battalion of cavalry, all belonging to the State militia, in active service. Though this force is composed of militiamen, it has been constantly drilling since the fall of Fort Sumter, and is now quite as efficient as any volunteer force in the Confederate army. The regiments are nearly all officered by graduates of West Point and the State Military Academy. Beside these troops, Charleston has a regiment of reserves, and several independent companies, composed mainly of exempts from military duty, for home protection. The citizens, with scarcely an exception, all belong to military organizations. Business is nearly suspended, as so many of the male inhabitants are away in the camps and on the island. At the race-course, in the city suburbs, is a camp of several thousand men, drilling day and night, and made up wholly of the citizens. The spirit of the people is thoroughly excited, and many are the prayers offered up daily than an opportunity may be offered the South Carolina soldiers to meet the Hessians in a land fight.

The accounts in the Northern papers of the capture of thousands of bales of cotton is all fudge. In every direction the patriotic planters have fired their cotton and buildings, and where the cotton had not been gathered from the plant, gangs of negroes have been sent into the field to trample it into the earth. Mr. MIKELL destroyed $40,000 worth of cotton in one night, and Hon. JOHN TOWNSEND burned a large quantity. Every night since the battle of Port Royal the skies have been illuminated by the burning plantations, and from the battery in Charleston looking southward vast volumes of smoke can be seen rising by day.

The battle of Port Royal was fought with distinguished gallantry by our troops. The two militia artillery companies in Fort Walker were composed exclusively of German citizens of Charleston, and were commanded by Col. JOHN A. WAGNER, of the First Regiment of Artillery, S. C. M., himself a worthy German.

THE REBEL CONGRESS.

The Richmond *Examiner*, of Dec. 11, states that a bill had been passed in secret session of Congress granting a bounty of fifty dollars to privates and non-commissioned officers who shall serve continuously three years or during the war, to be paid at the end of their first term to those reënlisting for the next two years. The bill also provides for sixty days' furloughs, with transportation home and back, to twelve month men, who reënlist for the war, or two years longer. It is understood that the bill provides that troops reënlisted shall, at the end of the present service, have power to organize themselves into companies and elect their officers, and said companies will be allowed to organize themselves into battalions or regiments, and elect their field-officers.

Congress passed and the President has approved an act authorizing the President to enlist for the war such seamen, not exceeding 2,000, as the exigencies of the naval service, for the defence of the sea-coast, rivers and harbors, may render necessary.

An act was also passed authorizing the Secretary of War to appoint an Assistant Seretary of War, at a salary of $3,000 per annum.

BOCOCK was in the chair to-day, Mr. STEPHENS being unwell and absent.

GENEROSITY OF THE REBEL CONGRESS.

From the Louisville-Nashville Courier, Dec. 16.

Congress has passed, and the President approved, a bill providing for the granting of bounty and furloughs to privates, musicians, and non-commissioned officers in the Provisional army. It is in the following words:

SECTION 1. *The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact*, That a bounty of fifty dollars be, and the same is hereby granted, to all privates, musicians, and non-commissioned officers in the Provisional army who shall serve continuously for three years or for the war, to be paid at the following times, viz.: To all now in the service for twelve months to be paid at the time of volunteering or enlisting for the next two ensuing years subsequent to the expiration of their present term of service. To all now in the service for three years, or for the war, to be paid at the expiration of their first year's service. To all who may hereafter volunteer or enlist for three years, or for the war, to be paid at the time of entry into the service.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That furloughs, not exceeding sixty days, with transportation home and back, shall be granted to all twelve months' men now in service who shall, prior to the expiration of their present term of service, volunteer or enlist for the next two ensuing years subsequent to the expiration of their present term of service or for three years or the war; said furloughs to be issued at such times and in such numbers as the Secretary of War may deem most compatible with the public interests; the length of each furlough being regulated with reference to the distance of each volunteer from his home; —*Provided*, That in lieu of a furlough the commutation value in money of the transportation herein above granted shall be paid to each private, musician or non-commissioned officer, who may elect to receive it, at such time as the furlough itself would otherwise be granted.

SEC. 3. This act shall apply to all troops who have volunteered or enlisted for a term of twelve months or more in the service of any State, who are now in the service of the said State, and who may hereafter volunteer or enlist in the service of the Confederate States under the provisions of the present act.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That all troops revolunteering or reënlisting shall, at the expiration of their present term of service, have the power to reorganize themselves into companies, and elect their company officers; and said companies shall have the power to organize themselves into battalions or regiments, and elect their field officers, and after the first election all vacancies shall be filled by promotion from the company, battalion or regiment in which such vacancies may occur: *Provided*, that whenever a vacancy shall occur, whether by promotion or otherwise, in the lowest grade of commissioned officers of a company, said vacancy shall always be filled by election. *And provided further*, that in the case of troops which have been regularly enlisted into the service of any particular State prior to the formation of the Confederacy, and which have been such state been turned over to the Confederate Government, the officers shall not be elected, but appointed and promoted in the same manner and by the same authority as they have heretofore been appointed and promoted.

GOV. BROWN, OF GEORGIA, IN HOT WATER.

From the Louisville-Nashville Courier, Dec. 16.

Gov. BROWN and the lower branch of the Legislature are at loggerheads. With a view to be prepared for a successful defence of the State against the threatened invasion of the Federalists, Gov. BROWN has organized, under the authority of the law, a large body of troops, and appointed Generals to command them. HENRY R. JOHNSON was appointed Major-General, and W. H. T. WALKER one of the Brigadiers. The former will be recollected for his brilliant defence of his position in Western Virginia against a superior force of the enemy. Gen. WALKER is an old and well-tried soldier. He recently resigned his commission in the Confederate army because President DAVIS appointed young and untried men over him. The force called into the field by Gov. BROWN, with these able persons to lead them, promises to be one of the best bodies of troops in the South. But it appears that the lower branch of the Legislature, either through a desire to strike down these Generals through Gov. BROWN, or from a mistaken economy, propose to turn the troops over to the Southern Confederacy. Against this the Governor enters his protest in a well-written and pointed message, the sending in of which seems to have stirred up the ire of members, one of whom introduced a resolution censuring him for this "unwarrantable interference" with legislation. The reading of the message was denied, and the bill protested against taken up and passed by a large majority. The Speaker of the House, Hon. WARREN AIDEN, participated in the debate on the occasion. He is reported to have said that:

"The Governor had offered the greatest indignity to the House, in the message thrust as an argument before us on yesterday. He proceeded to review the message. The Governor argued that the troops would not submit to the provisions of the bill displacing their officers. He bid the Commander-in-Chief, and all his troops, defiance to-day. Let them come with bayonets in their hands, and drive them from these halls, if they are not willing to acquiesce in Legislative action. He would bare his bosom to their bayonets, and be the last to jump from these windows on their approach."

NATIONAL MARINES CAPTURED.

A New-Orleans paper of the 12th inst., gives the following particulars concerning the capture of nine Federal troops:

"Lieut. SHEPHERD, of the steamer *Mobile*, having been informed of the circumstances published in regard to the nine Federals who were on Last Island, took a launch on Saturday last and went after them. The mission was successful.

Commodore HOLLINS last evening furnished Chief McCLELLAND with the instruction that the captured Fed's were at Brasher, and would be sent down by special train. Mr. McCLELLAND was too unwell to attend to it, and sent special officers IZARD, FARRELL, and MILLER, and Lieut. BOYLAN, to receive them.

They reached here about 1 o'clock this morning, and were taken at once to the First District Lock-up. Their names are A. O. CHILD, Master's Mate, of New-York; H. J. OSTRUM, Canada; CARL W. BENSON, Sweden; R. LOTHMAN, Sweden; JAMES GLENN, New-York; JAMES DOUGLAS, Providence R., I.; HENRY MAYO, New-York, and GEORGE C. CLANCEY, New-York.

In conversation with CHILD, who was their leader when taken, we learn that the party belonged to the Federal frigate *Santee*, of the Gulf fleet; that they were sent to the Southwest Pass, with the schooner *Annie Taylor*, on the 14th of November, for the purpose of procuring fresh water. The schooner was wrecked on the 17th, about six miles of the Sabine; and they took to a launch for safety, carrying with them a barrel of water, some hard biscuit, and about half a barel of oranges. Upon this they lived until they reached Last Island, on Thursday evening last.

They went to the house of Mr. BLANCHARD, and procured some cold beans, which they ate with a hearty relish, and took a drink of whisky by way of a washer.

CHILD denies the charge that they were overpowered with liquor. He says that he saw two of his men were drunk, and he stopped their grog. Being very tired, they slept soundly when they did get to sleep, not awaking till next morning. Upon getting up, he ordered one of the men to go to the boat and see if everything was right. The man soon returned with the information that everything had been taken out of her—muskets, pistols, cutlasses, chart and compass.

They were, therefore, without arms, and were unwilling to risk their lives on the water again in their launch, having had enough of that already. He says that from the time they left the frigate *Santee* to the present, they have not seen a Federal vessel anywhere, and he thought it best to watch and wait for an opportunity to get across to the main land."

NEW-ORLEANS.

FRIGHTENED—A LITTLE JUBILANT.

The Boston *Traveller* publishes extracts from a letter written by a merchant transacting business in New-Orleans, where he resides. The letter is dated the 12th inst. It says:

"Three large steamers have run the blockade the past week, and have taken full cargoes of cotton. Schooners are leaving for Havana nearly every day. The Message of Mr. LINCOLN came through by express, and was published in an extra.

There are over 400 cannons mounted in the fortifications defending the city. We have over 30,000 (?) troops, and expect 20,000 more from the country.

No distress exists even among the poorer classes in the city, as they are well provided for by the free market.

Houses are selling for thirty per cent. more than formerly. Bank and other stocks are also advancing. The banks will declare larger dividends than usual. There are over $20,000,000 on deposit in these institutions. Produce and other goods are on the decline.

The war has thus far cost only $50,000,000, so great have been the private contributions.

At an exhibition given at the opera, by the ladies, last week, the sum netted for the soldiers was $3,876.

The St. Louis Hotel has been converted into a grand bazaar to raise money for the troops. Ladies are giving their diamond pins, bracelets, and other valuables, for the object. Instead of making purchases for Christmas presents, they buy tickets and give them away. It is believed that the Fair will be a great success."

THE BLOCKADE AND COTTON.

In its "Talk on 'Change" the *Delta* of the 13th says:

"There was some talk about the suggestion and action of the Governor in regard to the admission of cotton to the extent of 10 per cent., or one-tenth of the crop, which, of course, embraces Mississippi, Tennessee, Arkansas, Texas and Louisiana. It is the general impression that the blockade of the mouths of the Mississippi can be avoided, particularly if a few resolute British steamers should happen to be in the vicinity, and it is not unreasonable to talk that 200,000 bales of cotton can be taken care of in our city with great ease, that is, money can be realized on that quantity. There are 20,000,000 of dollars now on deposit in the banks of this city. One-half of the amount can be available for the use of the cotton interest, but that sum will not be required. Four millions and a half of dollars is the outside estimate that will be required from our banks, which they will, we verily believe, furnish. Of course it is taken into consideration that the cotton interest of Louisiana, Mississippi and Arkansas is one and the same. There is no question but what the requisite means for the benefit of the cotton interest will be realized."

FRIGHTENED AT NEW-ORLEANS.

Special Dispatch to the Memphis Appeal.

NEW-ORLEANS, Saturday, Dec. 14.

The *True Delta* has just received intelligence from an unquestionable source that over 8,000 Federal troops have made a landing on Ship Island. This advance detachment is under the command of Gen. BUTLER.

Information has also been received that a large additional force is hourly expected at that point.

The programme is announced to be to land the troops on the Mississippi coast, and march to Mobile, while the naval force will endeavor to effect a passage past Fort Morgan into Mobile Bay. In the event of success in this movement, a simultaneous attack by land and sea is expected to be made.

AFFAIRS AT NORFOLK.

A letter from Fortress Monroe says:

"An expedition on a large scale is being fitted out at Norfolk to proceed against Hatteras Inlet, and retake what was captured from them by Commodore STRINGHAM. The fleet will consist of eleven large side-wheel steamboats and propellers, and a number of ship's launches, taken from the Norfolk Navy-yard. It is expected to rendezvous at Roanoke Island, and when joined by the gunboats now fitting out at the navy-yard and iron works at Norfolk, will at once proceed to the coast of North Carolina.

Commodore LYNCH, of Dead Sea exploration notoriety, now commands the rebel naval force infesting the waters of Virginia and North Carolina. The expedition against Hatteras Inlet is to be in command of ARTHUR SINCLAIR, late of the United States Navy, and a resident of Norfolk. Capt. PATRICK MCCARICK, late Captain of the passenger boats *Cuffee* and *Northampton*, is to be attached to the fleet as sailing master.

All the sick, disabled, badly shod and clothed soldiers have been removed from Roanoke Island to Norfolk, leaving but a very small force at the former place.

Fully eleven hundred men are now employed at the Norfolk Navy-yard, a large portion of them being engaged in rifling old and new guns. The mechanical direction of the yard is under the supervision of WM. P. WILLIAMSON, a resident of Norfolk, and for many years an engineer in the United States Navy.

AFFAIRS IN MISSISSIPPI.

A bill has passed the Legislature of Mississippi, authorizing an advance of treasury notes—not to exceed the sum of $5,000,000—to the planters of the State, upon the hypothecation of cotton valued at $25 a bale. The Senate proposed to pledge the faith of the State for their redemption—a feature which was stricken out by amendments on the bill going to the lower house. These notes are to be received in payment of all State taxes and dues, and it is contemplated to obtain the consent of the Congress for the Confederate collector to take them in pavment of the national war tax, which the State has determined to assume. Another measure has passed, proposing to relieve the indigent families of volunteers, by levying thirty per cent. in addition to the regular State tax, which is to be distributed to the various counties in proportion to the number of soldiers they have furnished for the service.

The following is the plan adopted in Mississippi by law for securing volunteers:

After providing for a thorough organization into companies of all able-bodied men between the ages of eighteen and fifty years, it is made the duty of each company commander, immediately after the organization of his command, to prepare a number of tickets equal to the number of his company, one-third of which shall be numered "one," one-third numbered "two," and one-third numbered "three." They are then to be placed in a box or hat, and be drawn by the members of the company. Those drawing number one shall constitute the first class, and shall be transferred into active service first, and the second class next, and the third class next. Any person who furnishes a substitute must take the place of the substitute in the class from which he was taken. A like classification is to be made annually, and no man shall be required to serve in the regular service for more than twelve months.

THE SWORD-MAKERS OF RICHMOND.

In the show-room of the Ames Manufacturing Company at Chicopee, near Springfield, Mass., hang two remarkable specimens of cavalry sabres, the history of which is thus given: Some two years ago the manufacture of swords was commenced at the Richmond Armory. To this armory at Richmond the stolen machinery from Harper's Ferry has since been added. A couple of thousand of these pruning-hooks were turned out, and then scabbards were wanted for them. But the chivalry had hammered out the blades into as many different shapes as there were swords, and no two alike. A scabbard made for one would not interchange with any others! So they shipped them to the Ames Company, with a request to have them fitted to scabbards, or rather (in order to have the symmetry of their shape) to have scabbards fitted to them! A job of this nature would have non-plussed almost any one else, but Yankee ingenuity prevailed over the stupidity of the Hotspurs; the swords were provided with scabbards, and two of them preserved as mementoes of the ingenuity of the age.

"DOUBLING."

The Richmond *Examiner* exposes an instance of what is called "doubling," that is, the holding of two offices by one man in departments of the Confederate Government at Richmond. It says:

"We learn of a case where a clerk in the Government employ, at a salary of $1,800 per annum, hires a man to do his work in that place for four hundred dollars a year, while he holds another clerkship in one of the departments, paying $1,200 per annum. Another instance brought to our attention is that of a person employed by the State Legislature, while, at the time drawing a salary for imaginary, or certainly very inadequate, services from the Confederate States Government."

THE ENGLISH NEWS AT THE SOUTH.

The war rumors from England are commented on in the Southern journals. The Richmond *Examiner*, speaking of the rumor that Great Britain had demanded the surrender of MASON and SLIDELL, says:

"The United States can do absolutely nothing but refuse the demands of Great Britain, and abide the consequences of that refusal. What they will be can be clearly foretold. First, there will be the diplomatic rupture; Lord LYONS will demand his passports, and Mr. ADAMS will be sent away from London. Then will follow an immediate recognition of the Southern Confederacy, with encouragement and aid in fitting out its vessels and supplying their wants in the British ports and islands. Lastly, a war will be evolved from these two events."

The Richmond *Enquirer* says:

"We have no need to invite attention

rebel Secretary of War, had, in a letter to Gen. CARTWRIGHT, declared his willingness that BROWNLOW should leave Confederate soil, stating that he considered him far more dangerous there than in the Federal army. CARTWRIGHT ordered a company of cavalry to conduct BROWNLOW to ZOLLICOFFER'S camp, whence he could make his way to the Federal lines, and upon the strength of this order—which BROWNLOW took the precaution to have committed to paper—he made every preparation to leave. But he was taken prisoner the following evening, on a warrant issued by a rebel Commissioner named REYNOLDS, who was glad of any excuse to deprive the brave patriot of his liberty.

There are about one thousand five hundred rebel soldiers in Knoxville, well armed, and comfortably clad in rough jean blouses, but without overcoats. This number includes one company of cavalry and one of artillery. There are seventy or eighty Union men in jail in the city, forty-eight of whom had just been sent to Tuscaloosa, Ala., where, it was rumored, a penitentiary had been established, and Union prisoners set to work.

Thirty-five Union prisoners arrived in Knoxville as Col. TATE left, and it was supposed that they were taken in Carter and Johnson Counties.

THE REPORTED INSANITY OF GEN. W. T. SHERMAN.

Asst. Adjt.-Gen. J. H. HAMMOND makes the following denial of the statement made in the Cincinnati *Commercial* that Gen. W. T. SHERMAN had become insane:

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS, Dec. 18, 1861.

SIR: I find that the subjoined report has been extensively copied throughout the country, and deem it my duty to refute a statement calculated to do much mischief.

The statements that Gen. SHERMAN telegraphed three times in one day for permission to evacuate Kentucky, that he frightened the people of Louisville out of their wits, and that he said Louisville could not be defended, are all false, and maliciously false.

As to his conduct at Sedalia, I say that he never had a command of any kind whatever in this department, and of course could have done nothing of the kind mentioned and charged against him.

He was employed in matters of the utmost importance until the afternoon of the 3d December, when he went home to see his family. Some malicious person seized the occasion to circulate the above, commencing in Chicago by telegraph from St. Louis.

I send this communication entirely on my own responsibility, assuring all who may read this article, that I know more of the position of Gen. SHERMAN, and his career in Kentucky and Missouri, than any other person possibly can know.

At the moment of my leaving Louisville, several of the most prominent men of the city and State expressed most earnest wishes that he might be enabled to take the field in Kentucky instead of Missouri.

Gen. SHERMAN will resume his duties in this department on the 23d inst. Very respectfully, your ob't serv't,

J. H. HAMMOND,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

STORY OF A REFUGEE.

From the Louisville Journal, Dec. 21.

We had an interview yesterday with a gentleman who had just arrived from Tennessee. He set out from Murfreesboro on horseback, and made his way by way of Tompkinsville, Columbia and Lebanon, to this city. His opportunities for observation while in Tennessee were excellent, and he made the most of his opportunities.

He spent several days recently at Bowling Green, Kentucky, and is thoroughly posted as to the strength of the army in that vicinity, and the immediate defences about Bowling Green. He assures us that to the best of his knowledge, Gen. JOHNSTON has fifty-two regiments under his command; that those regiments average about eight hundred men; that of the number about ten thousand are unfitted by disease for the performance of military duty, leaving about thirty or thirty-two thousand effective men in that division of the rebel army. Of this number, he says only about fifteen thousand are supplied with good improved arms.

He is of the opinion that the thirty thousand troops called for recently by Gov. HARRIS, of Tennessee, will not be raised, even through the resort to the system of drafting that has been inaugurated. In many of the counties the effort to draft had been furiously resisted.

A strong Union feeling exists in the upper counties of Tennessee. On Thursday night, the 12th inst., the Union men of Macon County, Tenn., visited Lafayette, the county-seat, and took possession of one hundred and fifty stand of arms that had been collected by the rebels to be forwarded to Nashville for the use of the army. About the same number of guns were taken in the same manner by the Union men of Gainesboro, Jackson County, Tenn., at the same time. Fully two-thirds of the citizens of Macon County have joined the army of the Union in Kentucky.

Our informant, who is a gentleman of intelligence, represents the people of the Confederacy, and of Tennessee in particular, to be in a state of terrible suffering, owing to the cessation of business, the absence of money and the necessaries of life, and the constant fear of invasion from Kentucky.

He confirms the report that the black flag had been carried through the streets of Nashville, and that some of the regiments had unfuried it at Bowling Green. He expresses the opinion that, if the Government troops would rest upon their arms until Spring, continuing to enforce the blockade, such a masterly stroke of inactivity would subdue the rebels, as their sufferings would have a tendency to bring them to their senses.

Our informant also confirms the rumor as to the presence of Indians in the rebel army at Bowling Green, as he saw 1,000 red skins in camp there about two weeks ago.

FROM CAIRO.

Correspondence of the St. Louis Democrat.

CAIRO, Thursday, Dec. 19, 1861.

A flag of truce arrived here from Columbus this afternoon, bringing the following prisoners: H. Harrington, Twelfth Illinois; Israel Heafs and Martin Torkaley, Twentieth Illinois; — Black, Illinois Thirtieth; A. Anderson, Illinois Twenty-seventh; — Shaw, Thirtieth Illinois; Henry D. Stine, Wallace E. Gregg and Wesley W. Sapp, Seventh Iowa, and F. M. Smith, Gen. GRANT'S hostler. These were all taken at Belmont.

The boat brought Memphis papers of the 16th. The rebels at Columbus are occupied chiefly in glorification over the belligerent attitude of England.

CLAIB. JACKSON had arrived at Columbus from Memphis, and issued a proclamation, calling the Missouri Legislature together on the 1st of January, at New-Madrid. He appeals urgently to Missourians for men to prosecute the war. He says the Federal forces at Cairo and other points are disorganized, and if the rebels only exert themselves, they will speedily end the war.

The telegraphic news from New-Orleans confirms previous accounts of the approach of Federal troops, and states our force at Ship Island at 5,000, with a squadron of eight vessels.

The rebels at Columbus drew in their pickets a few evenings since, apprehending an attack.

Col. PANY'S rebel cavalry were at Norfolk yesterday, but after reconnoitering they returned.

Col. TOTTEN arrived here from St. Louis to-day, to inspect the ordnance here.

NEW-MEXICO.

MESSAGE OF GOV. CONNOLLY.

Correspondence of the Ohio State Journal.

SANTA FE, December, 1861.

The Legislature meets here to-morrow, and will remain in session 60 days, the per diem of the members being $3 a day.

Gov. CONNELLY has prepared a most excellent Message, which will be delivered as soon as the two Houses are organized.

As there has been much said in the States about the condition of affairs in this Territory, I have, through the kindness of the Governor, taken the liberty of making a brief synopsis of the Message.

The receipts for territorial purposes, paid into the Treasury during the year, amounted to $10,405; the expenditures to $10,077. The public debt of the Territory is only $2,304, and there is enough money in the hands of the Collecting Officers to pay every dime of that.

The message contains a long and true history of the depredations committed by the Indians in various parts of the Territory, and recommends the passage of a joint resolution memoralizing the Secretary of the Interior of the facts in the case, and requesting him to adopt the reservation system for all the wild tribes.

The gold mines are spoken of as the richest and most productive upon the continent of America, the principal of which are the Placer Mines, belonging to the new Mexican Mining Company, situated about thirty miles south of Santa Fé. The copper, iron and coal mines yield abundance of ore, and the Governor urges upon the Legislature to afford every encouragement to those who will engage in developing the mineral wealth of the country.

The establishment of woolen, iron and leather manufactories is strongly urged, and the strongest inducements are given to capitalists to invest in these enterprises.

In reference to the Slave law foisted upon the Territory, by the efforts of the slave owners in office, at the time of its passage, the Governor says: "In my opinion, experience has proved that many of the provisions of the law, providing for the protection of slave property in New-Mexico, are unnecessarily severe and rigorous. I fear that the act as it now stands upon the statutes, was passed hastily, and without proper consideration. I therefore recommend that it be modified, or entirely repealed."

There is no doubt at all that this infamous law will be repealed among the very first acts of the session.

A semi-weekly mail to the States is earnestly prayed for. Should the petition be granted the time from the Missouri river to Santa Fé will be only ten days.

In order that you may judge rightly of the loyalty of New-Mexico, I give you in full what the Governor says of Federal affairs: "Our common country is involved in a strife that should inspire every citizen with a patriotic zeal in rallying to its assistance, and aiding to bear triumphantly through the war that Flag which has, for more than three-quarters of a century, been the pride of Americans and a terror to their enemies. No people on the face of the earth were as free and happy, and as prosperous, as were those of the United States before the heresy of Secessionism burst into open rebellion. The arts and sciences flourished; agriculture fed our own millions, and from its bounties, made Europe pay tribute; successful manufactories dotted our hills and valleys, and were making rapid strides toward relieving us from dependence upon foreign countries for their fabrics; our commerce was coextensive with all the habitations of man; educational institutions giving our people a degree of intelligence unknown to those of any other nation; railroads extending to the extreme North, to the extreme South, from the East to the West, as a question of time placed all sections in contiguity. The Constitution, which the wisdom of our fathers formed, and which was given to us as a priceless heritage, threw its protection over all alike, whilst the Government which was erected upon it as a basis, pressed heavily upon none.

What more than this, that is earthly, could be desired by the most ambitious? Man has never before had as much guaranteed to him, and it is doubtful, exceedingly doubtful, if he could have more.

I am proud to say that my loyal and patriotic fellow-citizens of New-Mexico have manfully responded to their country's call, and contributed more than a fair proportion of armed men for her defence. This evidence of devotion to the Union is the more flattering from the fact that when the secession began, and for some time after it had been in progress, it was presumed by the prime movers in the scheme that our Territory would join them in their attempts to pull down the pillars of free government, and rejoice with them in the midst of the wreck and desolation produced by their evil machinations. This patriotic outpouring of men has removed all cause of suspicion which may have been excited in the minds of our countrymen in the loyal States in reference to the position we occupy in connection with the war. A more patriotic demonstration of fidelity to our beloved institutions cannot be given than that which New-Mexico has in this manner shown, and, be it for weal or woe, this is the position she will occupy to the end.

The Texan forces still remain at and about Fort Fillmore, and have not ventured north of the Jornada. I am glad, however, to say that our army now in the field is amply sufficient not only for the protection of our people north of that desert, but to expel the invaders from our limits. This will be done as soon as supplies and transportations can be accumulated at Fort Craig, in quantities sufficient to answer the demands of the army destined for operations in that quarter. The military commander has made some wise and judicious distributions of the troops which remain, for the protection of our frontier, during the absence of the forces employed in the recapture of the forts disgracefully surrendered into the hands of the enemies of the Government.

Besides men, money is required to conduct the war. To enable the Secretary of the Treasury to meet the demands made upon his branch of the Administration, Congress at its last Session authorized a special tax, to be levied upon the different States and Territories. In round numbers $63,000 was the part of the sum to be thus raised, apportioned to New-Mexico. Whilst the tax is just and right in itself, I think we should be relieved from the payment of it. New-Mexico has for many years past, been subject to a constant annual drain from her material wealth, by Indian depredations. An approximate estimate of the losses she thus sustains exhibits them to have been in some years $400,000, and never to have been less than $50,000 in any one year that hostilities existed. This is an annual tax to which the people are subjected, and, from present indications, will continue to be subjected, in addition to those which are levied and collected in compliance with the statutes of the Territory. If a proper and authentic representation of these facts were presented to Congress I doubt not that a law for our relief would be passed.

MISCELLANEOUS REBELLION NEWS.

THE CAMPAIGN IN WESTERN VIRGINIA.

CONGRATULATORY ORDER OF GEN. ROSECRANS.

OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF WESTERN VIRGINIA: You have closed an arduous campaign with honor to yourselves and satisfaction to the country. None but those who have been with you, as I have, can fully appreciate your trials and privations.

Your triumph has been three-fold—over your own experience, the obstacles of nature and the rebel forces.

When our gallant young commander was called from us, after the disaster of Bull Run, this department was left with less than fifteen thousand men to guard three hundred miles of railroad and three hundred miles of frontier, exposed to *bushwhackers* and the forces of Generals FLOYD, WISE, and JACKSON. The northwestern pass into it was fortified and held, Cheat Mountain secured, the rebel assaults there victoriously repelled, and the Kanawha Valley occupied.

A march of 112 miles, over bad roads, brought you upon FLOYD'S entrenched position, whence the rebels were dislodged and chased to Sewell. Finally, your patience and watchings put the traitor FLOYD within your reach, and though by a precipitate retreat he escaped your grasp, you have the substantial fruits of victory. Western Virginia belongs to herself, and the invader is expelled from her soil. In the name of our Commander-in-Chief, and in my own, I thank you.

But, the country will expect—your Commanding General expects—still more from you. A campaign without a defeat, without even a check, must be eclipsed by deeds of greater lustre.

To this end I now call upon you, for your own future honor, to devote yourselves with energy and zeal to perfect yourselves in all that pertains to drill, instruction and discipline. Let every officer and every soldier be emulous to teach and learn the firings, light infantry drill, guard duty, company discipline and police.

Your Commanding General proposes to procure for you everything necessary to prepare you for your coming work, and will soon organize boards of examiners, who will rid the service of the disgrace and soldiers of the incubus of incompetent and worthless officers, who hold the positions and receive the pay without having the will or capacity to perform the duties of their positions.

Remember, you are fighting for your country, for your flag, for your homes.

Your enemies are implacable in their hatred of you; there is no measure of falsehood to which they have not resorted, to blacken your good name—and their leaders, BEAUREGARD and JEFF. DAVIS, have dared, even in solemn proclamation, to calumniate you, charging you with crimes you abhor—from these men you have nothing to expect. You must prepare to teach them, not only lessons of magnanimity and forbearance towards the *unarmed and defenceless*, but to thrust their calumnies and their boastings down their own traitorous throats.

Let not a moment be lost in your preparations for the task before you.

W. S. ROSECRANS, Brig.-Gen. U. S. A.,
Commanding Department of Western Virginia.

RECONNOISSANCE NEAR FAIRFAX.

The correspondent of the Philadelphia *Press*, telegraphs from Washington under date of Dec. 19:

"Three companies of the Cameron Dragoons, under Major S. E. SMITH, commanded respectively by Capt. WILSON, Company F; Lieut. STETSON, Company H, and Lieut. HESS, Company C, went out on a scout, yesterday, on the roads leading to Fairfax Court-house and Hunter's Mills. When within a mile and a half of Fairfax, these three officers, with eight privates, as an advance guard, encountered an equal number of the rebel cavalry. Instantly they gave chase, but the rebels fled, seeking the cover of a wood near by. In the chase they passed through an orchard, when one of the rebels dismounted under an apple tree, and, with his carbine, a five-shooter, rested against a tree and fired three shots at Maj. SMITH. Fortunately for the Major none of them took effect. After vainly endeavoring to draw the rebels from the wood, our little party rejoined the main body under the direction of the Major, and rode to Vienna, and from thence to Hunter's Mills. When near the latter place Capt. WILSON and Lieut. STETSON discovered a rebel who was endeavoring to make his escape. They dashed off after him, and soon returned into camp with him as a prisoner. When introduced to Gen. HANCOCK, the latter said: "Ah! VOLLIN, I am glad to see you—we have been looking for you for some time past." He is said to be a spy, and a most notorious picket murderer. He is now in prison in the city.

THE PRISONERS AT RICHMOND.

From the Boston Transcript, Dec. 16.

We learn from a source the most direct and authoritative, that within a week communication has been had with one of the seven prisoners confined in a felon's cell at Richmond, and that the facts in regard to their sufferings and privations have been too lightly stated. Not only are they confined in a miserable cell, eleven feet by seventeen, but they are not allowed to quit it for any purpose whatever. A single bucket is all that is allowed them for all their natural wants, and the stench and the foul air of the dungeon would be intolerable but for the cold draughts that find ingress, subjecting them to constant suffering.

Three are obliged to occupy a single mattress, and for that they have insufficient covering. Col. LEE, who has long been a sufferer from a chronic trouble, now greatly aggravated by these ingenious tortures, inflicted by the Thugs of Richmond, is not expected by his fellow-prisoners to survive the Winter. We make no comment on this state of things. If there is not spirit enough on the part of the Administration to take some step, like that recommended by the House of Representatives, in the way of retaliation, then we can only deplore the fact, and commiserate the prisoners and their friends.

CONGRESSMAN ELY.

From the Rochester Union, Dec. 23.

The children of our old townsman, HENRY CADY, Esq., have just received several letters from their father and mother, dated Richmond, and franked by Mr. ELY—the first communication they have received in several months. Mr. CADY has a contract for building a large portion of the Virginia Central Railroad, which extends from Richmond westward toward the Kanawha Valley, and where LLOYD and WISE were operating. Mr. CADY'S work is in the vicinity of Covington, and has been and is now in progress. He, together with the portion of his family with him, recently took up their residence in Richmond, and are boarding at the Powhatan House.

A few days ago Mr. and Mrs. CADY obtained a pass and paid a visit to Mr. ELY, with whom they are acquainted. They write that he was in excellent health and spirits, and was most happy to see them. Mr. CADY tendered him any pecuniary assistance that he might require, but the generous offer was declined, as Mr. ELY through other arrangements was supplied. Mr. and Mrs. CADY paid such attentions to the other prisoners also as were permitted or consistent with their position. They write that the general impression in Richmond, in which they join, is that Mr. ELY will be liberated. Mr. CADY treats his liberation as a matter of course, and speaks of preparing to send money and other articles by him to the portion of his family residing here.

THE STONE FLEET.

Capt. J. D. CHILDS, of the bark *Cossack*, gives the following account of the expedition which sailed from New-Bedford, Mass., on Nov. 20:

"After leaving New-Bedford, we had fine weather and a fair wind, which lasted for three days, and enabled most of the fleet to keep company; but after that time we encountered adverse winds and heavy weather, obliging us to part company. No accident having occurred during our passage, we anchored in company with several of the New-Bedford and New-London fleet, in the port of Savannah, our place of destination on the 4th inst., under the protection of the frigate *Savannah*, and the gunboats *Flag* and *Alabama*. All the New-Bedford fleet arrived at Tybee, except the six following, viz.: the *Garland*, *Frances Henrietta*, *Amazon*, *American*, *Courier* and *Herald*. The barks *Cossack* and *South America* were disposed of on Tybee, for the purpose of building a wharf to facilitate the landing of troops and stores. The six vessels mentioned above, having been intercepted on the coast, had their orders countermanded, and went into Port Royal, as also the other vessels ordered to Savannah, to wit: the *Archer*, *Kensington*, *Rebecca Simms*, *L. C. Richmond*, *Potomac*, *Harvest*, *Maria Theresa* and *Leonidas*. The bark *Frances Henrietta* has been disposed of at Port Royal, and the crew was engaged in stripping her.

On the evening of the 15th inst., we left the *Cossack* to her fate, and were transferred to the gunboat *Flag*, Capt. JOHN RODGERS, to be taken to Port Royal. At 6 o'clock A. M. of the 16th, we steamed away with the ship *Potomac* in tow, and reached our destination at 4 o'clock P. M., when we were placed on board the steamship *Atlantic* for a passage to New-York, giving us but small chance to obtain much information in regard to the ultimate disposal of the remainder of the New-Bedford fleet. We left lying outside Port Royal, the *America*, *India*, *Margaret Scott*, *Mechanic* and *Valparaiso*. From the information I gathered, I am satisfied that the majority of the vessels lying in Port Royal are to be towed to Charleston, and sunk for blockading purposes. The ships *Lewis* and *Meteor* went ashore on the shoals off Savannah and have gone to pieces.

The Forty-sixth New-York Regiment is quartered on Tybee Island, and are busy building sand batteries. Nothing of importance transpired at Tybee while we were there, except the landing of the regiment. Rebel gunboats visit Fort Pulaski daily, and a few shell have been fired from the fort toward Tybee, but without doing any damage. A great many sail of all classes are lying at Port Royal. At Tybee there are but two, the *Savannah* and *Seminole*."

THE UNITED STATES SHIP FRANKLIN.

From the Boston Traveler.

In the discussion about our navy, we do not remember to have heard anything of this noble vessel, now in the ship-house at the Portsmouth Navy-yard. The old fashioned ship-of-the-line *Franklin*, after remaining at the Charlestown Navy-yard for many years, was towed to Portsmouth and repaired after a peculiar fashion in vogue with the Navy Department, when the appropriation for repairs happened to be ample, and that for new vessels small. The *Franklin* went on the dry-dock, was taken entirely apart, and a portion of the keel and bows transferred to a ship-house near by, where the present steam vessel has risen like a Phœnix, from the ashes of the old. She has been built carefully and leisurely, of the best of materials, and by men whose fathers and grandfathers have been shipwrights on the Piscataqua, and who take a pride and personal interest in their handiwork, which is rarely found among the constantly changing workmen of our Southern navy-yards. She is of a fine model, able to carry an immense armament, and was, we think, when ready for launching, a few years ago, the largest man-of-war in the world.

She is by all odds the finest vessel we have, and we hope Congress will, at once, appropriate what is necessary to build her machinery, and fit her for sea. Possibly she might be plated with iron, without sinking her too deep in the water.

We hope this will be considered by our naval authorities, for such a vessel would be invaluable in case of war with a great naval power, even if the vessel should draw too much water for service in any but deep water. Such a vessel, iron-plated, and armed with heavy rifled guns, would make it no easy task for a fleet, even with some iron-plated vessels, to blockade our harbor, and would be more than a match for any vessel in the British navy, with the exception of the three or four like the *Warrior*.

AFFAIRS AT FORT WARREN.

From the Boston Traveler, Dec. 24.

The company recently recruited by Capt. BUMPUS, of Braintree, went down to Fort Warren at noon to-day to reinforce the garrison.

The boat plying to the fort took down, to-day, a quantity of evergreen wreaths for officers of the garrison, and a variety of articles that will tend to help some of the persons in the fort better to enjoy the merry Christmas season.

The story of insubordination among the prisoners is not believed by persons who have recently visited the fort. The prisoners are highly pleased with their treatment by Col. DIMMICK, and are not likely to do anything that will change his demeanor towards them.

Rev. CHRISTOPHER NORTH, of Harper's Ferry, who has been imprisoned since early in the Summer, came up yesterday, having been released in exchange for Rev. Mr. MINES, of Bath, Me., who was captured at Bull Run, and recently returned from the South by way of Fortress Monroe.

Mr. DAVIS, one of the Baltimore Police Commissioners, also came up, having been released for thirty days on parole.

THANKS.

The prisoners at Fort Warren appreciated the kindness shown them by some of the people of Boston, as is apparent from the following note:

FORT WARREN, BOSTON HARBOR, Dec. 10, 1861.

DEAR SIR: I trust it may not be deemed amiss in me, supposing myself on the eve of departure for my Southern home, to express to you, and through you to your associates, my appreciation of the kindness extended by you and them, through Dr. WILLIAM PETERS, the Surgeon of this post, to the men of my command, upon our transfer from Fort Columbus, and since our sojourn here.

In these days of trial and stern war, kindness to the captive in an enemy's country is doubly valued, blessing both those that give and receive.

I shall upon my return home take great pleasure in communicating to the proper quarter the kind efforts of yourself and friends to minister to the comfort of my men, conscious that it will be properly appreciated, and tend to alleviate the troubles of like unfortunates.

Yours, most respectfully,
(Signed,) WM. F. MARTIN,
Col. Seventh Reg't N. C. Volunteers.

BROUGHT TO THEIR BEARINGS.

The Montreal *Gazette*, which has distinguished itself by rivaling the Toronto *Leader* in its abuse of the Union, seems to have been brought to its bearings by the prospect of a war between England and the United States. In a recent issue it says:

"We heartily regret to see any vaporing, boastful spirit indulged in anywhere, or anything said which looks like a challenge to the conflict. It is not those people who make most clamor and who swagger most who do most effective work when the tug of war comes. We are a young country, having a long and narrow territory, with an immense frontier exposed to the enemy, with but a sparse population to defend it. Much of the damage done to the United States seaboard would be avenged on us. That is inevitable, and we hope no Canadian is bragging what Canada can do, without fully considering the disadvantages under which we labor, and the hardships we must be prepared to endure if war comes. Our neighbors have half a million of men afoot. They could hold the South in check with half that number; they could garrison their seaport towns with 150,000, and they could send an army of 100,000, swelled by another 50,000 or 100,000 new recruits, upon Canada. And we, Heaven help us! have no access to the seaboard except through the enemy's country, and a half-dozen regiments of regulars and less than 10,000 volunteers, on whom to depend to fight our battles. As a leading New-York journal recently said of us—we have only a paper militia, and, so far as our rulers are concerned, seem likely to have *nothing more for some time to come*."

CAPT. PRIME.

There seems to be no longer any doubt that Capt. PRIME, of the Engineer Corps, has been captured by the rebels opposing the advance of Gen. SCHOEPF'S column. A correspondent of the Cincinnati *Gazette* reaffirms the rumor, and a writer in the *Commercial* says:

"The rebels could hardly have taken from us a more valuable man. Capt. PRIME is an officer of the Engineer Corps, in the regular army, and has been regarded as one of the most promising young men our army contained. Though not long a graduate, he had risen in the corps where promotion is the slowest of any in the army, from Second and First Lieutenant to Captain, and he outranked in the regular army Gen. MCCOOK, Gen. JOHNSON, and others of our volunteer Brigadiers, and stood just below Gen. BENHAM. Simple, modest and unobtrusive, he formed a marked contrast to many of his brother officers, and rose, not by favoritism of influential friends or Congressmen, but by his own acknowledged merit, to the position of Chief Engineer on Gen. BUELL'S staff. The Captain is the son of a wealthy New-Yorker, but is a native of Italy, his parents being on a prolonged foreign tour at his birth."

ESCAPED FROM THE REBELS.

"J. W. BUTLER, formerly a member of the Fusiliers," says the Boston *Journal*, "has recently received the appointment of pilot and guide for the coast of the Gulf of Mexico. He is now in this city, waiting conveyance to the Gulf. Mr. BUTLER was in command of a schooner which was trading in the Gulf of Mexico when the rebellion broke out. He remained at Pensacola until August, when he effected his escape, bringing with him several other Union men and three or four ladies. He was enabled to give to Col. BROWN, in command at Fort Pickens, much valuable information as to the rebel defences, and brought away a series of not far from fifty photographic views of the defensive works in and about Pensacola, which were taken for Gen. BRAGG. Some of these he still has with him, but most of them have been detained by Col. BROWN, and by the authorities at Washington, to whom they are of great value. Mr. BUTLER says there are many Union men in Florida, but they are watched by a Committee of Safety, and are completely intimidated. His late partner was hung shortly after he left, on suspicion of being a party to his escape."

CARL SCHURZ.

The *Volksblatt*, of Cincinnati, publishes an extract of a private letter from CARL SCHURZ, which the *Commercial* translates as follows:

MADRID, Oct. 8, 1861.

Under other circumstances, my stay in Madrid would be pleasant, but my attention is so intently fixed upon the United States, that I should be rejoiced to return thither. For the first time in my life I am homesick, and were the circumstances not such that I am sufficiently employed, I could not bear it. I hear that a letter, said to be from me, is published in the German papers in America. In which I express myself in terms of joyful anticipation at the prospective amusements in Madrid. It is perhaps hardly necessary for me to say that this is a gross fabrication. I should like to know who gave currency to the *canard*. When a man awaits every mail with a beating and anxious heart, he is little inclined to think about amusements.

What will be the result of this war? In what attitude stands the Anti-Slavery element of the West? What is thought of the controversy between FREMONT and the Government? It would be one of the most disheartening effects of the war if it terminated without some great results for the benefit of mankind.

THE WRECKED STEAMER UNION.

The following letter from the Quartermaster's Department is interesting to the friends of those who were made prisoners by the wreck of the steamer *Union*:

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL'S OFFICE, WASHINGTON CITY, Dec. 18.

SIR: Your letter of the 13th of November, to the Secretary of the Navy, having been referred to this office, you are respectfully informed that the steamer *Union*, of Philadelphia, purchased for this Department, was lost on the coast of North Carolina, and her crew made prisoners.

It is presumed the crew, being in the service of the United States when captured, will be paid for their service when released, but until that time nothing can be done for them or their friends, by this Department, without authority from the men themselves.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
W. C. MEIGS, Quartermaster-General.

Mr. JOHN BELL ROBINSON, No. 244 North Front-street, Philadelphia.

A CONFLICT OF JURISDICTION.

The orders issued by the National officers, appointed to take charge of the recruiting service in Illinois, are not obeyed with alacrity. The response made to them is the following circular, sent to the different officers at the head of incomplete regiments:

HEADQUARTERS QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT, SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Dec. 14, 1861.

SIR: I am instructed by the Commander-in-Chief of this State to inform you that I have made purchases ample and sufficient to supply the several regiments of this State with uniforms and other necessary clothing, together with such articles as are requisite to complete or renew their equipments in other respects; and also, such horse equipments, and other articles for cavalry and artillery, as are prescribed by existing army regulations.

Requisitions for the above-mentioned articles, properly approved, *should be made upon me*, and forwarded to this place, when they will be promptly attended to.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,
JOHN WOOD,
Quartermaster-General of Illinois.

CATCHING SLAVES.

Col. FITZ HENRY WARREN, of the First Iowa Cavalry, publishes a card in the St. Louis papers, correcting some misstatements regarding "an attempt to recover a contraband," who had taken refuge in his camp. In conclusion, he says:

"Perhaps I shall not too far abuse the charity of your columns, if I add, that while the First Regiment of Iowa Cavalry have an honest emulation to an elevated character in all legitimate duties of war, there is, and will be no competition among them for high excellence in the refined and ennobling pursuits of negro-catching and rendition."

THE CONTRACT COMMITTEE AND GOV. MORGAN.

The Albany *Evening Journal* gives the following explanation of the connection between Gov. MORGAN and Mr. GEORGE D. MORGAN, whose transactions in the purchase of vessels were rather unfavorably commented upon by Mr. VAN WYCK in the report of the Committee appointed to investigate the contracts:

"There is a very simple explanation of the manner in which Gov. MORGAN'S name became connected with this transaction.

In April last, when the rebels had cut off all railroad and telegraph communication with Washington, the Government deemed it necessary to confer unusual powers upon some parties in the City of New-York. The Secretary of War selected Mr. CUMMINGS, and associated with him Gov. MORGAN.

This information was brought to New-York by a special messenger, who had, at great personal peril, made the journey. As soon as this messenger reached New-York, the fact was telegraphed to Gov. MORGAN, with the addition that if his duties at Albany were such that he could not give the business his personal attention, that Mr. GEO. D. MORGAN could act.

As Gov. MORGAN could not neglect his official business here, he acted upon this suggestion, and consented that Mr. GEO. D. MORGAN should act;—although he was, at the moment, entirely ignorant of the work required to be done. A full copy of the communication was not received from Secretary CAMERON for several days; and when received, the letter was written, on the 4th of May, as quoted above.

Secretary CAMERON'S order, it will be perceived, simply commissioned the parties named to 'make all necessary arrangements for the transportation of troops and the munitions of war.' No reference whatever is made to the purchase of commissary stores, which, however, was done to a very large extent.

Ascertaining this fact, Gov. MORGAN advised his then partner, Mr. GEORGE D. MORGAN, to withdraw from the commission, as he did not deem it proper for any one with whom he (the Governor) was associated, *to be in any way connected with Government contracts or purchases*. Mr. GEORGE D. MORGAN saw no impropriety in what the Governor objected to, *and the disagreement resulted in the withdrawal of the former from the firm of which Gov. M. was a partner.*

This dissolution occurred early in June last, and in July, GEO. D. MORGAN was commissioned by Secretary WELLES to make the vessel purchases which constituted the subject of investigation.

These are the simple facts in the case; and we think, as the public will think, that they preclude the *Union*, or any other journal, from truthfully connecting Gov. MORGAN, either with Mr. CUMMINGS in his miscellaneous purchases, or with GEO. D. MORGAN in his purchase of vessels for the Government."

THE TRENT AFFAIR.

WARLIKE MOVEMENTS IN CANADA.

The Canadian papers continue to be filled with intelligence of the most belligerent character. The Toronto *Globe*, of Dec., 23, notices the preliminary steps toward the organization of no less than seven or eight volunteer corps. At a meeting held to start a subscription for the relief of the families of those volunteering, $1,000 was subscribed.

PREPARATIONS AT THE GARRISON.

From the Toronto Globe, Dec. 23.

The work on the fortifications now in progress at the garrison is being pushed forward with the greatest dispatch. Already three of the large guns have been mounted, and three more will be placed in position to-day. It is reported that several large guns are at present on their way here from Quebec. A strong picket fence to encircle both the old and new forts, is now in course of construction. No one is allowed to approach the works, and any person wishing to visit the garrison must be provided with a "pass" signed by the Port-Adjutant. It is stated that between two and three thousand of the forces ordered from England will be stationed at Toronto, and every place suitable for barracks will be taken by the military authorities for that purpose. Capt. STRACHAN'S buildings on York-street, and the bath and wash houses at the head of John-street, have been among other places mentioned. There is also a rumor that tents for the accommodation of two thousand soldiers will be fitted up during the present Winter. The camp will be between the old and new forts.

THE TROOPS FROM ENGLAND.

From the Quebec Chronicle, Dec. 23.

We are expecting the transports every hour. The telegraph office at Father Point was reopened last night, the operator having been sent down again. Gen. WILLIAMS was in consultation with his Excellency the Governor-General all day yesterday, and among the matters debated was the best method of landing the troops and stores. The opinion of practical men, well acquainted with the river, was taken. Two Artillery officers have already left for below, to assist in landing the guns and other stores.

The season continues remarkably favorable. We learned from River du Loup yesterday, that there was no ice whatever in the river there. It may be as exceptional as that of 1846, when the first snow fell on the 12th of December, or as 1836 and 1837, concerning which we find it stated in the *Witness* that, on the 16th of December, 1836, a steamer arrived at Montreal from Quebec, with a barge in tow, loaded with firearms; and in January, 1837, a steamer went from that city to Cornwall, having a regiment on board.

From the Toronto Leader, Dec. 23.

We learn, from Quebec, that two steamships, heavily laden with munitions of war, arrived in the St. Lawrence, on Saturday. One, said to be the *Melbourne*, was off Riviere du Loup; the other was telegraphed from Bic. Although the formation of ice had begun at Quebec, it was believed that the vessels would have no difficulty in reaching that port.

MONTREAL.

The Montreal *Commercial Advertiser*, apprehending that in case of hostilities that city would be first attacked, says: "Let Montrealers remember that Montreal is the key of Canada; once in the possession of the enemy, and the whole western country is cut off from supplies and reinforcements, and nothing is left for it but submission. In Gen. SCOTT'S report on the war of 1812-13 he pointed out the blunder made by invading Upper Canada, instead of paralyzing it by capturing Montreal. And he was right. Montreal is the key of Canada, and we may depend upon it, the moment war is declared the Federal forces will march on Montreal, if we are not prepared to meet them. Railways will bring them to Rouse's Point; thence there are good roads, and an open country practicable for any force. In Winter or Summer. Laprairie Common will be the first battle-field, for there the army which covers Montreal must make its first stand. Let our citizens then, old and young, prepare; every rank, from the millionaire to the day laborer, every age from 16 to 60, must take up arms; on them is the duty not only to protect their homes and their property, but to save Canada. The pluck is here, the cool determination which marks the hero, but we want discipline. Drill then, morning noon and night, until the whole city resounds to the tread of citizen soldiers, and we can send twenty thousand men against the foe. Thus, and thus only can we save Montreal from capture and pillage if hostilities break out before Spring, and maintain the communications without which Canada West will be lost, only to be regained by oceans of blood."

THE ENGLISH NOT ADDICTED TO LOUD TALK.

From the Quebec Chronicle, Dec. 23.

The people of every portion of Canada will have an opportunity, to-day, of offering to the whole world the noble spectacle of a nation springing *en masse* to arms, to repel the threatened invasion of an enemy. We predict with confidence that the uprising will be to His Excellency's general order as instant as the echo to the word, and that within a fortnight, at the furthest, we shall chronicle the fact that nearly 50,000 men are mustered shoulder to shoulder, as ready as their fathers proved themselves to encounter hardship and fatigue, and to dare danger or death in defence of their own firesides, their cherished institutions, their native land. They will bear in mind that all that's worthy to be held dear is menaced. The honor of the flag of which we are all proud is threatened. We know that in the event of war, on us the first and deadliest blow will fall. If we meet it as we ought, we shall preserve our connection with the Empire; we shall hold our soil uncontaminated by the loathed presence of a hostile army. If we unworthily flinch from the encounter, our independence will be endangered, our budding hopes of future Nationality destroyed. But of such consequences we will not for an instant dream. Within a week it will be manifest that fifty years of rest have not dulled the National spirit of Canadians; nay, have rather given them so great a relish for the blessings of an honorable peace, that they will enter into a war by which the renewal and continuance of these benefits may be procured, so earnestly and unitedly as to render ultimate victory a certainty.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

The Quebec *Chronicle* of Wednesday says: "A large quantity of stores—consisting of sixty-eight pounders, shot and shell, &c.,—was dispatched yesterday for Kingston." The same paper of the following day notices the dispatch of further munitions of war for the West.

The same paper of Thursday says: "The Provincial steamers will be immediately undocked, and moored among the piers; not for winter service, unless in case of extraordinary emergency, but that they may be ready for service, if needed, a month earlier than they otherwise would be."

Several of the merchants of Montreal have agreed to close their stores at 3 o'clock three day's in the week to give their employes an opportunity of drilling. The merchants of Quebec, with the same object in view, close at 2 P. M. on Saturdays; and the Toronto *Leader* is urging employers in that City to take the same course.

ORGANIZATION OF THE MILITIA IN CANADA.

From the Canada Gazette Extra.

PROVINCE OF CANADA, HEADQUARTERS, QUEBEC, Dec. 20, 1861.

MILITIA GENERAL ORDER NO. 1.—His Excellency, the Commander-in-Chief, deems it expedient to organize a portion of the Sedentary Militia of this Province.

His Excellency is therefore pleased to order as follows

The New-York Times.

NEW-YORK, THURSDAY, DEC. 26, 1861.

THE NEW-YORK TIMES.

Published in the TIMES Building, fronting the City Hal Park, on Park-row, Spruce and Nassau-streets.

The DAILY TIMES, published every morning and evening—price TWO CENTS; mailed at SIX DOLLARS a year; with Sunday edition, SEVEN DOLLARS per year.

The SEMI-WEEKLY, published Tuesdays and Fridays, THREE DOLLARS a year; two copies to one address for FIVE DOLLARS.

Any person who will send us a Club of FIVE subscribers may receive an extra copy for himself, or retain Two Dollars and a Half as his commission.

The WEEKLY, Two DOLLARS a year; two copies THREE DOLLARS; five copies FIVE DOLLARS. Any person who will send us a Club of TEN subscribers at $1 each, shall receive an extra copy for himself, or may retain One Dollar as his compensation. The Semi-Weekly and Weekly sent to Clergymen at the lowest club rates. Specimen numbers forwarded on application.

TERMS—Cash invariably in advance.

All letters to be addressed to H. J. RAYMOND & CO., Proprietors of the NEW-YORK TIMES, New-York City.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice can be taken of Anonymous Communications. Whatever is intended for insertion must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer—not necessarily for publication, but as a guaranty for his good faith.

We cannot undertake to return rejected Communications.

VOLUNTARY CORRESPONDENCE, containing important news, solicited from any quarter of the world; if used, will be liberally paid for.

Amusements this Evening.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC—ZAMPILLA'S ROSTATION—RAOUL—THE SCHOOLMASTER.

LAURA KEENE'S THEATRE—LITTLE TOM—ROBINSON CRUSOE.

NIBLO'S GARDEN—HERRMANN'S SOIREES DE PRESTIDIGITATION.

NIBLO'S SALOON—PEAK FAMILY.

WALLACK'S THEATRE—UP AT THE HILLS—TOM NOCDY'S SECRET.

BOWERY THEATRE—GREAT NATIONAL CIRCUS.

HOPE CHAPEL—CAPT. WILLIAMS' SOUTH SEA WHALING VOYAGE.

BARNUM'S MUSEUM—LIVING HIPPOPOTAMUS, LIVING WHALE, &c., AT ALL HOURS—DRAMATIC PERFORMANCES AT 3½ AND 7½ O'CLOCK.

THE WONDERS OF THE WORLD—No. 563 Broadway

EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS—FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE POOR—No. 548 Broadway.

SCHAUS' GALLERY—No. 749 Broadway—GIGNOUX'S INDIAN SUMMER—9 A. M. to 5 P. M.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

THE REBELLION.

It is believed that the demands of the British Government in regard to the *Trent* affair have been made known by Lord LYONS to our Government, and that these demands have been correctly foreshadowed by the British Press—an apology for the transaction, and the restitution of MASON and SLIDELL. An extraordinary Cabinet meeting is reported to have been held yesterday, in reference to these demands the result of which was a determination to disavow the act of Capt. WILKES, and to give up the captive rebels, should this prove the only course through which to escape a war with England; but at the same time, it is alleged, our Government will require Great Britain to concede this as a definite settlement of the question of the right of search, and also that no interference shall be made by her at any time in behalf of the rebellion.

Washington was more like Sunday than Sunday itself usually is, there, at present. Fewer officers and soldiers were to be seen in the streets, and business was almost entirely suspended. The churches were open as generally as on Sunday, and were as fully attended. Most of the soldiers absent from camp were on furlough for two days, and a large proportion of them went to their homes in citizens' dress.

By the arrival at this port of the steamship *Marion*, we have advices from Tybee Island to the 20th, and Port Royal to the 21st inst. The *Marion*, it will be recollected, transported the Seventh Connecticut Regiment from Port Royal to Tybee, as a reinforcement to the troops already there, numbering only six hundred. The cannonading heard in that direction was from Fort Pulaski, which threw a number of shells at the *Marion* while she was discharging her cargo, but without effect. It is expected that Gen. WRIGHT will have command at Tybee, as he accompanied the Connecticut troops, and remained on the island, which is to be put in a thoroughly defensible condition. Gen. STEVENS, now in command at Beaufort, whose brigade has recently been reinforced by two regiments, is expected soon to make an advance on the mainland of South Carolina, for the purpose of occupying a point on the railroad between Charleston and Savannah—probably Coosawhatahie. It is intimated that the cause of the abandonment of the proposed expedition under Gen. VIELE was a misunderstanding between Gen. SHERMAN and Commodore DUPONT as to the proper plan of action. Among other interesting incidents detailed by our correspondent, is the return of one of the tradesmen of Beaufort—an apothecary—who has reopened his store, and who insists that one-half the people of Beaufort would return at once, could they follow their own inclinations.

We receive by the *Marion* a letter from our special correspondent who accompanied the stone fleet to Charleston, and who witnessed the operation of sinking the sixteen hulks in the main channel leading to the harbor. They were not placed straight across, as in other cases where the experiment has failed, but in three rows, with special reference to the fact that the inland waters must flow to the sea. An intricate maze of shoals and eddies will thus be formed, which it will be impossible to navigate, but which will still allow of the flow of water without the creation of new channels. The Charlestonians, on the approach of the fleet, destroyed the lighthouse on Morris Island by blowing it up.

From Fortress Monroe there is no news of special importance. Our dispatch embodies several extracts from Southern newspapers, received by flag of truce from Norfolk. The rebel idea of recent movements in Kentucky is that they bode a descent upon Bowling Green by Gen. BUELL, with sixty thousand men, from three points. The Richmond *Examiner* admits that the recent battle of Drainesville was no inconsiderable disaster for the rebels—which is a great deal for a rebel paper to admit. The Georgia papers state that an attempt had been made to burn the State Railroad bridge over Petis Creek, but that the incendiary was caught, tried, and sentenced to be hung. Gold is reported to be worth 35 per cent. premium at Richmond, and silver nearly as much.

We have advices from Nassau, N. P., to the 11th inst. It is evident from the tenor of these advices that Nassau is the rendezvous for vessels and persons engaged in contraband trade with the rebel States. Mention is made of the arrival there of a number of vessels with cotton and rice, which had run out of some of the Southern ports, and the steamer *Gladiator* had arrived there with arms and ammunition from Liverpool. A brig had also arrived from Liverpool with salt, she having put in for a pilot to assist her in running the blockade.

A correspondence has passed between Gov. WASHBURN, of Maine, and Secretary CAMERON, relative to the coast defences of that State. Mr. CAMERON says that plans, estimates and specifications of the fortifications necessary to secure the end proposed will be laid before the Governor in time for presentation to the Legislature. He suggests that the work should be proceeded with, and that the amounts thus expended will be regarded as a loan to the National Government, which will be refunded as soon as possible.

FROM EUROPE.

The steamship *Niagara*, from Liverpool on the 14th inst., and Queenstown on the 15th, passed Cape Race at 11 o'clock on Monday night. The Eastern lines, after having been down two days, resumed work to some extent, last night, but were able to forward only a brief synopsis of the *Niagara's* news. The details will come to hand to-day, *viâ* Halifax. The dates are the same as by the *Persia*.

Prince ALBERT, it appears, died on Saturday night at 11 o'clock, instead of at noon on Sunday, as before announced, and his disease was typhoid fever, and not gastric.

The only item relative to the *Trent* affair is the assertion of the Paris *Patrie* that France and the Great Powers have been consulted by Great Britain, and have expressed the opinion that the conduct of Capt. WILKES was a violation of the rights of neutrals.

There is no change of consequence to report in the London Money market. The bullion in the Bank of England had increased £128,000. The sales of Cotton for the week in the Liverpool market had been only 35,000, and a small advance had been established. Breadstuffs were generally quiet, but steady, and Provisions were nrm.

GENERAL NEWS.

The Quebec *Chronicle*, of Tuesday, says: "Mr. SEYMOUR, the Queen's messenger, who has been to Washington, arrived here yesterday morning. We believe Capt. LINDSAY, R. N., who has been staying in Quebec for some time, will leave for England to-day, and carry with him dispatches for the British Government. The Londonderry *Guardian* tells us the *Anglo-Saxon* was detained a day on her last outward trip, to receive an immense quantity of telegraphic cypher, for Lord LYONS.

Christmas day, yesterday, was generally observed throughout the City. The various churches, both Protestant and Roman Catholic, had services appropriate to the occasion. At the different institutions on the Islands, and in the City, the day was duly observed, and the inmates of those places regaled with Christmas cheer. Many persons flocked to the Central Park to enjoy the amusement of skating, but much to their disappointment the red ball was not up, and an ominous board marked "dangerous," met their gaze.

Rev. CHRISTOPHER NORTH, of Harper's Ferry, one of the prisoners at Fort Warren, was exchanged for Rev. Mr. MINES, of Bath, Maine, who was captured at Bull Run, recently returned from the South, by way of Fortress Monroe.

During the holdays, according to the Washington *Intelligencer*, Messrs. DAWES and WASHBURNE, of the Committee on Contracts, will proceed to Boston for the purpose of examining into the matter of pegged shoes for the army. If the pegged shoes can be adopted instead of the sewed ones, it will cause a saving to the Government of seventy-five cents on each pair.

The Great Question of Ways and Means.

One of the most striking results, so far, of the war, is the complete change it has wrought in the financial condition of our Government. A year or two ago, with only one important source of revenue, impost duties, we could hardly make way with the immense amount of money it produced. We were the envy of other nations, while our complacency at our fortunate position scarcely knew any bounds. But we have left behind us, and we fear forever, the happy age in which every want, apparently without any effort of our own, was more than supplied. Henceforth our ingenuity will be racked to the utmost to make both ends meet. We are poring over the elaborate systems that bring such countless sums into the exchequers of France and England. In our necessities, we have changed places with these countries. They, not ourselves, are the happy nations in possessing systems of taxation so thoroughly digested as to produce annually, without apparent hardship, sums equal to that which we find difficult to raise, both by taxation and loans. We have equal wants, but unluckily are not only unused to the burdens they impose, but are puzzled beyond measure to adopt them to our own shoulders, so as to be borne without really weakening us, or what is equally to be avoided, without dissatisfaction and complaint.

But we have assumed responsibilities, and we must now be prepared to meet them. Congress has already taken an important step at its present session. It has raised the duty on tea to twenty cents per pound; on coffee to five cents; and on sugar to two and a half, three, five and eight cents per pound, according to quality. It is only six months ago that the former articles were in the *free* list, while the duty on the latter was merely nominal. Congress, in its recent act, proceeded upon the idea of getting the largest amount of money, no matter how. Everybody drinks tea and coffee, and eats sugar; and will continue to do so very nearly in the same quantity, no matter what may be the duty, or their cost.

It is very easy to say that so many pounds shall pay so much money. With the importation of the artiole, the revenue is certain. Congress did well to make its first essay in a matter that involved no difficulty in imposing and enforcing the law, nor much doubt as to the amount of revenue that will accrue from it. But the next step will leave firm ground for what may turn out to be an unstable morass. England derives, say $60,000,000 from income and property tax; the larger portion of this sum from the *income* tax. As yet we hardly understand the principle upon which this tax is levied. But if we did, a tax laid here similar in kind would probably produce only a small sum. In this country, where property is so much divided, nearly every one has enough, and only a few much surplus. Very few people here live upon their incomes. In a very few cases only can the incomes of the great portion of those reputed wealthy, or whose personal expenses are on a generous scale, be accurately computed. The mercantile community pass for our rich men, but how is the income of a man to be ascertained, whose liabilities are a million, and who any day may be a bankrupt by the failure of a half-a-dozen customers? The amount of his income is purely problematical. In England and Wales the annual rental of the lands may be put down, at say $200,000,000; this vast sum is income that can be readily reached in the hands of a comparatively few holders. At three per cent. an income on this amount would produce $6,000,000. The tenantry escapes, while the landholder pays. But, in this country, the occupiers are the owners of the soil. We have no tenantry. Of the farmers, not one in a thous. and has a net income of $800 annually. An income-tax in this country, consequently, is not likely to produce much, unless levied upon very small properties, which has always been foreign to the policy of such acts. It is clear that the proposed levy of such a tax calls for a great deal of reflection, and will probably require frequent change and modification before it will work, either effectively or harmoniously. We have, to be sure, in this country very large properties in the shape of railroads, banks and insurance companies. The net income of the railroads in the loyal States equals probably $50,000,000 annually over working expenses, and $30,000,000 over expenses and interest. The net earnings of the banks equal $25,000,000; of insurance companies $10,000,000. Where shall the net profits of these institutions be levied? In their hands, or those of their stock and bondholders? If levied in the hands of the latter, a considerable amount would be lost from being represented abroad. How shall the profits of railroads be computed? Shall they be the net earnings over expenses, or shall they be the net earnings after all current liabilities are discharged? This matter of income tax will be the most difficult question with which the Government will have to deal, and is one to which special attention should at once be directed.

England derives $100,000,000 from an excise tax levied chiefly on distilled and fermented liquors, or the privilege of selling the same. But in England every person, high and low, drinks one or the other of these liquors that is taxed. In that climate the advocates of the Maine law are few and far between. In many parts of the United States the use of distilled or fermented liquors by the great mrss of the people, has almost wholly ceased. A tax equal to that imposed in England would give such an impetus to the temperance movement that it would not produce one-quarter as much per head in this country as in England. In England the revenue from that excise equals four dollars per head. Wine there is the common beverage of the wealthier classes, and beer of those of moderate means and the poor. Wine here is drank only very sparingly, while beer-drinking has hardly got beyond our adopted citizens from Germany.

Our object, in referring to these matters, is not to lay down any plan or system to be adopted, or to estimate the probable amounts that may be produced, but to anticipate a subject which must soon come to be an all-absorbing one—that of *internal taxation*. Our revenues from imports are fast failing us while our expenditures are enormously increased. There is no hope that for years to come the former can be at all adequate to the wants of the Government. We shall have an annual interest account very nearly up to the highest revenues from imposts ever realized. Our civil list swells at a rapid rate, and we can hardly expect for the future to do without a large army and navy. While dreaming we were still young, we suddenly find ourselves grown old, if a multiplicity of domestic troubles and expenditures which we are puzzled how to meet, are a test. Not one of the least evils of this premature age is inexperience, which will cost us a great deal of money and trouble to surmount. But a responsibility courageously faced is half performed; and, as we cannot shirk the one now upon us, let us grapple with it at once, and let each member of the community do what he can by any suggestion, information or advice.

British View of the Legal Questions Connected with the Trent Affair.

The London *Saturday Review*, of Dec. 7, comes to us literally overflowing with malignant abuse of the United States. It contains no less than *eight* articles upon the relations of the two countries,—and the evident purpose of each one of them is to excite among the English people, the greatest possible amount of hatred and detestation of the institutions, the Government and the people of this country. One of these articles only makes the least pretence of examining the main question at issue between the two nations on the ground of law and common sense; all the rest are bald and shameless appeals to the basest passions of an excited community. The one which forms the exception discusses the seizure of the rebel agents on board the *Trent*, and is worthy of some attention, although it prefaces its argument by the assumption that we have been guilty of a gross aggression, and that England might have at once declared war upon us, "raised the blockade and been hailed as a benefactor by her own citizens, and by every maritime State." It discusses the law of the case, and goes over the authorities which have been cited, in a much more judicial as well as judicious way, than any other article which we have seen in the English papers.

The first point which it makes against us is, that the *Trent* was not a "neutral private merchant ship," because she carried the mail. The point is not pressed, however; in fact it is admitted that England could not claim that she was exempt from the right of search on this ground, although the writer thinks that we should have held her to be a public vessel. The only authority which it cites for this conclusion is a sentence from Mr. LAWRENCE, in his edition of WHEATON, in which he says that the carrying of dispatches "cannot invest with criminality either a regular postal packet, or a merchant ship, which takes a dispatch in its ordinary course of conveying letters, *and of the contents of which the master must necessarily be ignorant.*" This citation is far from establishing the point. We accept it as good law. All our articles on the subject have been based on the idea—as to the correctness of which we fancy there can be little doubt—that the master of the *Trent* knew what he was carrying. If he was ignorant of it, no one can claim that he or his vessel was in fault. This point, however, the article concedes to us.

The next point made is that the *San Jacinto* ought to have taken the *Trent* into port, and then had the question passed upon in the Courts. We may concede this point to England; but it must be borne in mind that the question which would have been in that case passed upon would have been whether the *Trent* should be confiscated. If the question is discussed now on its merits, and decided in our favor, and it is held that the *Trent* would rightly be confiscated were she before the Courts, there can be no ground of complaint on England's part that she is not here to be confiscated. That ground is utterly untenable. The statement of it in Gen. SCOTT's letter, that to hold it would be to hold that if there had been more injury there would have been less wrong, is conclusive on this point with any unprejudiced mind.

And this brings us to the merits of the question. The *Saturday Review* holds that "the *Trent* was not, so far as we know, carrying contraband dispatches, and she was carrying persons whose character exempted them from the operation of hostilities." It proceeds to argue that the dispatches were not contraband, citing from the cases of the *Caroline*, the *Atlanta*, and the *Madison*, to show that dispatches from a belligerent to his Consul, or other official resident in a neutral State, are not contraband, because the neutral has the right to keep up his intercourse with both belligerents. And it says:

"Indeed but little reflection will show that the lawfulness of such intercourse is a necessary consequence from even the limited recognition of a *de facto* State as a belligerent. A State so recognized must have organs of communication with the neutral. How is the neutral, for instance, to obtain a redress for injuries done to her own subjects? She must make her complaints through some regular channel—in other words, she must recognize, for this purpose at least, a Government and a diplomatic officer."

These remarks and citations would be pertinent if the English Government had recognized for any purpose the Confederate Government or its diplomatic officers; but this it has as yet refused to do. They are pertinent to a war between recognized nationalities, but when we bring into the discussion the element that the nationality of one of the belligerents is recognized neither by the other, nor by the neutral, it changes the aspect of the case. The Government of England, as we understand it, has till now refused to hold communication with the Confederate States. How then can it complain that it has been prevented from receiving communications from them? That is not the question at all. It is whether we have the right to stop communications *between rebel enemies at home and rebel enemies abroad*, and whether such communications, knowingly carried on board a neutral ship, having no purpose of "amicable intercourse" between the rebels and the neutral Power, but simply relating to the means of more successfully prosecuting the war against us, shall forfeit the neutral vessel, or whether we, not having tried to enforce the forfeiture, shall be called upon to allow the communications to go forward.

And as bearing upon this point, we cite another quotation made by this article of the *Review*. It refers to our citation of the case of Mr. LAURENS, which has been abandoned as an authority in our favor, since the facts of it have been fully brought out, and it quotes the account of the affair from ADOLPHUS' *History of England*, in which it says:

"The papers were thrown overboard, but by the intrepidity of an English sailor recovered with little damage. They fully proved the perfidy of the Dutch who, *before the existence of any dispute with Great Britain, had entered into a formal treaty of amity and commerce with the revolted Colonies*, fully recognizing their independence and containing many stipulations highly injurious to England and beneficial to her enemies both in Europe and America."

And on this account, says the *Review*, England declared war against Holland soon after.

Now, applying this to our case, it would seem that if England, while yet at peace with us, should make such a treaty as that with the Confederate States, we should be justified in declaring war upon her, as England did on Holland. Is not the argument very strong from this that we should have the right to stop the initiatory steps to such a treaty, if possible, and that a vessel which was carrying knowingly those dispatches or persons, whose sole purpose was to bring about that which would be justifiable cause of war, is carrying what comes clearly within the principle of contraband of war? The position of England would be this: "We are justified in going to war with you for taking from one of our vessels those whose known purpose was to get us to do that which would justify you in going to war with us." And this meets also the next point of the *Review* that these men were ambassadors. As to the right to stop ambassadors, they argue, as has been argued here, that the right only exists when the ambassador is within the belligerent's own country. Lord STOWELL's dictum does not certainly go clearly to the extent that we have claimed, although in his decision he places the time when he is entitled to his peculiar privileges as being not when he is on the seas, but "when he has arrived and taken upon himself the functions of his office,"—and the attempt of England to seize the French ambassador in Long Island Sound is in point, as showing what has been her view on this point in earlier days.

The argument from the impressment of merchant seamen, which the *Review* next attacks, has not been pressed as an argument here. The case of the steamer *Caroline* is spoken of approvingly, of course, as being "an act of self-defence." If the English Government is only as ready to look at all the circumstances of this case as we were at the time of the *Caroline* affair, they will see that this, too, is "a matter of self-defence." If they persist in looking at it as only the execution of a deliberate purpose to insult them, "there is no telling to what depths of folly" such notions may lead them.

FUEL FOR THE ENGLISH WAR FEVER.—We thought we had become tolerably familiar, from reading the *Herald*, with the acts of which unprincipled and unscrupulous demagogues feed the angry passions of a sensitive and excited community. But even the *Herald* may learn something in this line from the London newspapers. There seems to be nothing too monstrous for their use,—no falsehood too palpable, no invention too transparent, if it only panders to the malignant passions of the English people.

Take the following from a recent number of the London *Chronicle*:

We are in a position to affirm, that when the Duke of Newcastle was in attendance, in September last year, on the Prince of Wales in his tour through Canada and the United States, Mr. SEWARD, the Secretary of the LINCOLN Administration, addressed his Grace, on one particular occasion, in words to this effect: "My Lord Duke, either Mr. LINCOLN or myself will be next President of the United States. If Mr. LINCOLN be chosen, I shall be Secretary, *and we are determined to take the first opportunity that presents itself to insult your country.*" "If you do," was the Duke of Newcastle's answer, "you will bring about a war between the two countries." "Oh, no, there will be no war," was Mr. SEWARD's rejoinder; "but we will—we *must* insult you." The Duke of Newcastle, we are enabled to add, looked on this as nothing more, to use an expressive, though not very classical term, than so much "bosh," and never once thought of the circumstance until the affair of the *Trent* brought it again to his remembrance.

No man this side the Atlantic need be told that this is utterly false—the pure invention of a shameless incendiary. On the other side, however, it is very well calculated to pass for truth. The writer gives the impression that the Duke of Newcastle himself is his authority for the statement, and anything which a duke is supposed to have said is received in England as true beyond all peradventure. Those who know nothing of Mr. SEWARD may very possibly suppose him insane enough to talk about the Presidency in the style ascribed to him. But nobody else need be told that it was simply impossible. The imaginary conversation was either before or after Mr. LINCOLN's nomination. If before, it is enough to say that Mr. LINCOLN's nomination was the very last one that seemed likely to be made, and Mr. SEWARD could never have spoken of it as a probable contingency. If after, he must have known that he himself could not be President, and could never, therefore, have spoken of such an alternative.

But it is folly to waste words in refuting such bold inventions. It is only to be regretted that the temper of the English people at the present moment is such as to give the least importance to falsehoods so shameless and disgraceful.

Public Sentiment in the United States and in England.

We have one most excellent symptom in connection with the English quarrel:—the public mind in this country is essentially calm and self-possessed. Our people have been entirely free from that insane frenzy which seemed at the latest dates to have absolute control of public sentiment in England, and are prepared to look at the question in the light of common sense, and to act upon it from considerations of justice and of prudence. When the news of the *Trent* affair first reached this country, it naturally created some excitement. But the feeling did not partake in the least of hostility against England, or of any desire to insult the British flag:—it was simple exultation that we had arrested two of the most prominent and most odious of the conspirators against our Government, and had them safely in our possession. Naturally enough, we went to work to convince ourselves, if possible, that no wrong had been done to England,—that we had law as well as feeling on our side, and that England would probably acquiesce in that view of the case. We do not think that any of our people were prepared for so violent and insane an outbreak of popular passion, as occurred upon the receipt of the news in Great Britain. But even this has not had the effect of goading us into a similar insanity.

Our people have full and entire confidence in both the disposition and the ability of our Government to preserve peace with England, if it can be done consistently with national honor,—and any other peace they do not desire. But they will await with patience and confidence the action of the Government, and will give it their hearty and cordial support. They know very well that the condition of the country is critical,—that every consideration requires us to avoid multiplying the number of our enemies,—and that the country will be as effectually served by avoiding fresh wars as by carrying to a successful issue the one in which it is already embarked. The Government, moreover, in dealing with these questions has need of a calm and dispassionate public sentiment. If it acts wisely, it must act with coolness. It must feel that it has the confidence of the country,—that it will be sustained in whatever policy it may find essential to the public good; and above all, that it will not be pushed into rash and hasty courses by an impatient and impetuous public sentiment. In this respect the Government enjoys every assurance which it can require. It can count, with confidence, on the public support for whatever course it may deem necessary to pursue.

Public sentiment in England, moreover, it must be remembered, will change greatly before any definite action can be taken. The very violence of the popular frenzy is a guarantee that it cannot last. The receipt of the President's message, in the first place, will check severely the extravagance of the public passion;—for it was assumed everywhere in England, as absolutely certain, that the President would approve the act of Capt. WILKES, and thus close the door to any honorable compliance with the demands of the English Government. The *Times* pronounced it highly probable that "President LINCOLN, under the influence of his Secretary of State, may have committed himself to assertions and promises which will make it very difficult for him to do us justice." The receipt of the message will dissipate all these apprehensions, and will show that both the President and the Secretary of State are entirely free from any committals which can, in the slightest degree, hamper their freedom of action upon this subject. This discovery will of itself do much toward calming the public mind. It will show the English people how grossly they have been mistaken on one point of the case,—and will make them doubly anxious not to persist in a similar mistake on the others. There is nothing that has a more sedative effect upon a mass of people, than the suspicion that they have been humbugged into making fools of themselves.

And this reaction will be greatly aided by the manner in which the reported complaint of the British Government has been received here. So far from meeting the defiance and scorn which they anticipated for it, it encountered the most anxious and resolute purpose, on the part of our people, to do anything which justice may require, to satisfy the British Government that no insult or wrong was intended, and to preserve peaceful relations between the two countries. And when they find this purpose,—as we believe they will,—shared and fully represented in the action of our Government, they must be much more resolutely bent on war than we believe them to be, if they do not concede the utter injustice of their suspicions and their hate.

GEN. SCOTT'S SUDDEN RETURN.—The announcement that Lieut.-Gen. SCOTT has taken passage for this City in the *Arago*, which left Havre on the 11th, and may be expected to-day or to-morrow, has occasioned considerable remark. It was understood when he left home that he intended to be absent for some months,—and his sudden return is therefore not unreasonably supposed to have some connection with the condition of public affairs. Our latest Paris correspondence stated that he had had a long interview with Prince NAPOLEON previous to his departure, and intimations have already been made in the Paris journals that the Emperor would gladly offer his mediation between England and the United States, if it should be found impossible otherwise to settle amicably the differences pending between them. It is by no means unlikely, if such a purpose is entertained by the Emperor, that Gen. SCOTT should have been selected as the medium of making it known to our Government. As the affair of the *Trent* has not yet been made the subject of diplomatic discussion, the Emperor could not suggest mediation through the ordinary channels of national intercourse. If England should assent to such a mode of settlement, we presume that our Government would not object to it. In our judgment, however, such a resort will not be found necessary.

A WORD OF SUGGESTION.—We beg leave to suggest to the editor of the *Albion*, whether he would not serve the cause of his own country more effectually, by seeking to allay, rather than inflame, the hostility of Englishmen resident here against the Government of the United States. His laborious attempts to prove that the Secretary of State has pursued a policy and held a tone intentionally insulting and offensive to England can certainly do nothing toward preserving peace, even if they were ten times as successful as they are. We appreciate fully the delicacy of the *Albion's* position, and have frequently borne testimony to the tact and discretion which have marked the editor's usual treatment of controverted questions that now and then arise between the two countries. An English newspaper, in New-York, ought to be thoroughly and entirely in the interest of peace; and whenever its editor makes up his mind that the interest or honor of the country which he more immediately represents demand war, he should also decide to advocate that policy on his own soil and under his own flag. We should be sorry to believe that the editor of the *Albion* has arrived at any such conclusion, but the general tone of his paper does not seem calculated to promote the preservation of peace.

MILITARY MATRIMONY.—It is a very curious fact that scarce a day passes without an announcement from Washington of some wedding in the army. Generals, majors, lieutenants, captains, corporals and high privates, all seem to be busy marrying and giving in marriage. The only difference appears to be that the privates wed not singly but in battalions. At least there was, the other day, an account of the marriage of forty soldiers in the grand army of the Potomac. If the matrimonial mania goes on at this rate, it is more than likely that the chaplains will find it an economy of labor to perform the interesting ceremony—say, by platoons! And on this point, if we are not able to cite an exact precedent, there is, at least, on record an account of *baptism* having been performed in this wholesale style. The story is told of a Polish Bishop, who, being called upon to perform the ceremony on a heathenish and unchristened army, summoned them by battalions, and, waving a huge besom over them, baptised the first as collective Peter; second, Paul, etc. Why should not some such plan be inaugurated in what is, in more senses than one, our grand *Union* army?

THE RUMORED ESCAPE OF [illegible].—We are strongly inclined to doubt the authenticity of the statement published in the TIMES of Tuesday, from a soldier who claimed to have just returned from Charleston, concerning the alleged escape of Col. CORCORAN. There are very many points in the narrative which are open to suspicion. The Union prisoners, according to previous reports, were confined in the new prison, which was not within the district destroyed by the fire; and it certainly does not seem likely that three or four hundred of them would be left in an open room, from which they could so easily make their escape as they were represented to have done in this narrative. We have hitherto understood, also, that it was not the wounded among our prisoners who were removed to Charleston, but those who were best able to bear the removal. There are other features of the case which incline us to the belief that Lieut. HURD was indulging in some flights of fancy in the report which he made of his adventures in Charleston, and that he has really been no further South than Richmond.

THE STONE SQUADRON.—Our correspondent who accompanied the famous stone-laden squadron from Port Royal to Charleston, gives a most interesting account of the sinking of the sixteen old whalers in the main entrance to Charleston Harbor. Some doubt had been entertained as to the efficiency of the plan, from the fact that the attempt to destroy the channel at Ocracoke, on the North Carolina coast, was a total failure—a still wider channel having been presently formed by the shifting sands at the side of the old one. Capt. DAVIS, however, took this hydrographic difficulty into consideration, and by an ingenious arrangement of the old hulks, checkerwise, cuts up the passage into an intricate series of whirling eddies, which are utterly incapable of being navigated. The plan will no doubt be entirely effectual, and give JEFF. DAVIS what his soul has so long been yearning for—a perfect blockade.

FINE ARTS.—A remarkable collection of small oil paintings, the work of an amateur artist of this City, will be sold by auction to-day at LEEDS & Co.'s rooms in Nassau-street. The pieces are mostly studies from nature,—studies in landscape and water-scape, in foliage, in sky and cloud; and there are also in the collection admirable sketches of foreign scenery and life. Some of these little gems are exquisite bits of coloring, exhibiting the touch and taste of a fine American genius; and they ought all to find eager purchasers and appreciators in these Holiday times. There is no better evidence of the general growth of American taste in art matters than the fact that such a collection is offered at public sale.

Navigation of the Hudson River.

ALBANY, Wednesday, Dec. 25.

The steamer *Isaac Newton* is still aground on Shad Island, nine miles below the city. The steamer *Constitution* has succeeded in opening a passage to Castleton, and is transferring the *Newton's* freight to the dock. It is hoped she will then float, and be able to force her way through the ice, which is quite heavy, and making very fast. The steamer *Baltic* attempted to reach her yesterday afternoon, but the ice was so heavy she was compelled to return.

A messenger arrived here to-night to procure the assistance of one or two heavy steam-tugs, but their owners were unwilling to risk the undertaking.

The *New World* is hard aground and froze in at Coryman's Cross, over twelve miles below the city. Her situation is equally as dangerous as that of the *Newton*.

Weather here is very cold. Thermometer at zero.

Christmas in New-York, Brooklyn and Jersey City.

The Day—Its General Observance—The Churches, Charitable Institutions, and Places of Amusement—A Bright and Happy Festival.

For months but too evident to the sense of every citizen, the high festival of the Christian Church, ordered forever to a fallen race, was not celebrated yesterday with that boisterous and exuberant hilarity which has for a generation past distinguished its recurrence in this City. Christmas to our people has been the gala day of our tenderest associations, the very jubilee of every kindliest and purest thought. In comparison with all other days of the whole year—working days and festive ones alike—we have made it what the charmed circle of home is, contrasted with the dullness or turbulence of the outer world. From infancy to manhood, the anniversary of the Saviour's birth has been the heaven of memory. Dedicated to God by the laws and observances of our religious faith, it has been continually sanctified in our hearts by the traditions of family and home. It is with [illegible] Christmas times of by-gone years that most of us associate the pleasantest and fondest recollections that are left to us of all that we have loved and lost; of all the hope of its return, bearing wealth and wisdom to our hearths, that we connect the inmost longings of the future. Because then Christmas among us belongs to the fireside where parent and child, sister and brother, have been wont, each year, to remember for the renewal of fond pledges, and the sharing of innocent joys, it was outwardly less gay with us here than for half a lifetime gone. Too many were far away, exposed to privation, wounds and death; too many had already paid the debt of patriotism in the sacrifice of their lives, and still too many more were groaning on beds of sickness or mutilation, not to leave the public heart full of sober reflection, sometimes of heavy grief. But even this changed mood gave in the minds of most a higher significance to the day. The glow of the spiritual purification rested on the popular gaze, and there, here and there, the battle-cloud obscured a spot of the horizon, it seemed but to enhance the splendor of the morning close at hand for our country and the system she defends. In this spirit, a vast portion of our people went heartily to work in the celebration of the merry Yule-tide. A grand body of Irish soldiers, and among them the Celt and the Teuton loomed up largely, and defying pestilence, famine and death, in the pursuit of their native bravery, gave full vent to jollity in a Metropolis where no one of the terrors indicated existed beyond the realm and sway they always claim in any hive of human beings.

The weather, which had been rainy and inclement for two or three days previously, on Tuesday morning suddenly became clear and cold, and by the evening of the same day a fleece of snow resting upon a tower surface of ice, lent to the City streets and distant landscape, a look of mid-Winter delightfully in keeping with the traditions of the Christmas season in our Northern climate. A calm, unclouded sky, sparkling with the Wintry constellations, looked down upon a City thronging with the busy caterers who, on Christmas Eve were forth to gather the stores of toys and delicacies destined for the ensuing day. The reign of mirth had already commenced, and from private houses to public hall innumerable parties and clubs were assembled to hail the birth of the festival. In many a street, and along the Bowery and the leading thoroughfares of the avenues, the shops and places of entertainment had exhausted every resource of taste and ingenuity to attract the passer by; the great markets were all ablaze with light, and thronged with purchasers, and for miles and miles, the thoroughfares presented a spectacle of brilliant life and gayety that could be witnessed nowhere else upon the American Continent, and at no other period even here. At midnight, the eager traffic still continued, in many places, and it was not until the small hours of the Natal day that the City consented to repose for a brief space, even then greatly disturbed by the Christmas waits or bands of church choristers, who went from Ward to Ward singing hymns of the Nativity beneath the windows of their friends.

The morning renewed the fair, fine weather of the preceding twenty-four hours, and although the coolness of the atmosphere was not enough to promise much for the enthusiastic skaters of both sexes, who had dreamed all night of Central Park, it was sufficient to insure bracing exercise and sharp Christmas appetites. What all the mysteries of myriad homes with their kindly "Merry Christmas" greetings may have been, who will pretend to say, but from the ringing laughter of young voices everywhere around us at an early hour, the tramp of hurrying feet and the tooting of innumerable toy-horns, tremendous in combination, but squeaky in detail, one might safely judge that Kriss Kringle had been committing his usual nocturnal atrocities on the small folk.

From the Battery to Harlem the morning sunshine was greeted by the chime of bells from all the steeples of the cross; and from St. Patrick's Cathedral to the little chapel far beyond High Bridge, the diapason of rich organs, and the swell of voices streamed out with the incense and the light of illuminated altars through Gothic windows, on the dawn.

All the churches of the Catholic and Episcopal worships, with many of other denominations, were beautifully decorated with flowers and evergreens, some most exquisitely. At the morning service all were crowded with the devout, to whom appropriate sermons were addressed by their most noted divines. In other columns special reference to several of these discourses will be found.

As stated in preceding paragraphs, the children of Fatherland, whose veneration for Christmas is unbounded, as among a host of other records, the pleasant pages of WILLIAM and MARY HOWITT relate, had a "time" all to themselves. The Odeon, the Volksgarten, Bossm's Fortuna Halle, Seebach's National Hall, and others were separate carnivals of mirth in which several hundreds of similar but minor establishments participated. In the four great resorts first mentioned, more than 20,000 men, women and children, (for the Teutonic child goes everywhere,) were regaled with the dishes and beverages of old Fatherland, and cheered with its fun and its music. In each establishment a temporary fair was held, a gigantic Christmas tree, sparkling with tapers and hung with bells, moss-groves and toys, was erected, and comic pantomimes enacted until long after midnight.

The French, the Scandinavian, and other residents, even the children of the *sempre fiel Ysla* of Cuba, had their separate services and merry-makings in which the officers and crews of the foreign war vessels in our harbor participated.

In the hotels, care was thrown to the winds, and the day enjoyed as it would be in palatial homes.

All our institutions of public charity had their religious services, their dinners and presents for the poor, both old and young, and even in the prisons, the rays of Christmas benevolence fell warm and sweet, to soften many a heart hardened by the rough usage of the outer world.

Our great City, in her general gladness, yesterday, did not forget the beggar and the captive. Her benevolence is as wide and comprehensive as the sweep of her vast commerce.

The following are notices of what was done in some of our churches and institutions of charity:

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCHES.

At St. Patrick's Cathedral, corner of Prince and Mott streets, Solemn High Mass was performed, celebrant the very Rev. Father STARRS. Rev. Mr. McGUIRE acted as deacon, and Mr. H. LORI, of the Society of Jesus, as sub-deacon. Rev. Dr. CAHILL preached the sermon from the Gospel of St. John, appertaining to the birth of Christ. Rev. JOSEPH P. WOODS acted as master of ceremonies. WEBB'S Mass was sung in a most charming manner, by a double choir admirably assisted by Mr. HARRISON, the organist of the cathedral. The altar was handsomely decorated in a most artistic and beautiful manner, with natural and artificial flowers and evergreens, with a number of lights that formed clusters of stars and other devices. Mr. DEGRANVILLE had the superintendence of the decorations, and admirably had he done his work—the whole affair having a most delightful effect. The collections, which were of a large amount, are for the benefit of the Orphan Asylum. High Mass was also performed at 5½ A. M.

At St. Stephen's Church—which was also beautifully adorned with flowers and evergreens—high mass was celebrated, at which Rev. Dr. CUMMINGS officiated.

In Sixteenth-street, at St. Francis Xavier Church, high mass was also celebrated. Evergreens and flowers adorned the altar and walls in a most charming and picturesque manner. Rev. Dr. MOILAN officiated.

The Barclay-street Church—St. Peter's—was also tastefully decorated. The altar was decked with flowers, and the body of the church with evergreens. Great taste was exhibited in the embellishment. Rev. Father QUINN celebrated high mass in the morning.

At the other churches Christmas was generally observed, high mass was celebrated, and the interiors were hung and garlanded with flowers.

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCHES.

The Episcopal Churches of the City yesterday celebrated the festival of Christmas in accordance with their usual custom, and the more prominent of them were thronged with spectators. Trinity, which always takes the lead in the imposing character of its services, was crowded to excess with eager listeners, and the programme of the Children's Festival for Christmas Eve was so changed as to make it none the less acceptable to "children of a larger growth." The following was the order of services:

Carol—Words by Dr. OGILBY; music by CUTLER.

Venite, and Psalms 19, 45, and 85; chanted by choir.

The Service and *Jubilate* in E flat; *Te Deum*—KREMPER.

Anthem, consisting of selections from HARMON'S "Messiah"—Solos by Mr. HAVEN.

Hymn—40th.

Sermon, by Dr. VINTON.

Carol.

The services were conducted by Rev. Drs. VINTON and OGILBY.

The solos to the carols were sung by Master HOPKINS, a youth of 12 years, who possesses a remarkable upward range of voice. This choir also contains many other fine soprano voices.

The sermon by Dr. VINTON, which was very brief, was from Genesis, chap. XXVIII, verse 12.

The whole service was in strict accordance with English Cathedral usage, and differed from that of any other church in the City.

The services at St. Paul's Church—conducted by Rev. Mr. DIX—were also of an imposing character and were listened to by a large audience. The decorations of this church were most elaborate and tasteful.

At St. John's Church, which was elaborately ornamented for the occasion, Rev. Dr. WASTON and Rev. Mr. YOUNG officiated.

Grace Church was brilliantly decorated, and the services were attended by a large and fashionable audience.

At Christ's Church, in Fifth-avenue, the music was of a superior character, comprising a voluntary on the organ, by ROSSINI: *Venite*, by CHAS. WELS; *Gloria Patrie*, by RINCK: *Te Deum*, by WELS; *Jubilate*, by H. MILLARD; selections from HAYDEN, HANDEL, &c.

In St. George's Church, the services were strictly in accordance with the English custom and included the reading of the "Athanasian Creed."

Christmas morning was inaugurated at St. Bartholomew's Church, on Monday morning, by the distribution of toys, and gifts, and also of 650 warm garments to the Mission School, connected with this parish. On Tuesday morning, 122 turkies, 268 pies, and 217 loaves of bread were presented to the poor families connected with the school. On the morning of Christmas Day, the children of the Sunday-School, numbering 500, received each a gift-book from the hands of the Rector. The benevolent would have needed no greater encouragement in their kind efforts, than to have seen the "merry Christmas" embodied in the little beaming faces of the scholars of St. Bartholomew's Church.

THE FIVE POINTS MISSION.

Christmas day was appropriately observed at this charitable asylum. At 10 o'clock A. M., nearly four hundred children had assembled in the main school-room, and, after engaging in devotional exercises, each one was made the recipient of a suitable gift. The room was tastefully decorated with festoons of the National colors, and upon the walls appeared scriptural mottoes in letters of evergreen. At one end of the room were placed two Christmas trees which were covered with a profusion of attractive gifts, consisting of dolls, books, confectionery, &c. Near by stood a table supporting an immense heap of "good things," neatly done up in packages. Each child received one of the packages, and a gift taken from the Christmas tree. Prizes for good scholarship were also awarded to the deserving. The prizes were contributed by the teachers. A Christmas carol rendered with beautiful effect by four little girls, and everything passed off in a harmonious and truly pleasant manner. Revs. A. K. SANFORD and J. LANKIN, missionaries, and Mrs. DWELL, Directress, and others connected with the mission, are entitled to much credit for their efforts on this occasion.

THE FIVE POINTS HOUSE OF INDUSTRY.

Appropriate arrangements were made by the managers of this institution to celebrate the day in a manner highly agreeable to the many little children who are protected and cared for by the friends of the Mission. Early in the morning a group of boys and girls assembled in the upper school-room, and busied themselves in cleaning their hands and faces and arranging their attires, preparatory to entering the dining-rooms. At 2 o'clock the group numbered about four hundred,—all happy, their faces flushed with excitement, waiting to be summoned to the Christmas feast; and when, shortly after, they gathered round the tempting tables, their eyes gleamed with inexpressible delight, which, together with their nimble but orderly movements, indicated with what degree of pleasure they received this kind and friendly token. The dining halls were two large rooms set apart for the occasion, each of which contained two long tables, well and heavily laden with unornamented but substantial edibles, contributed by the members of the Church of the Ascension. After the repast, the children enjoyed themselves in their usual way, and when evening approached they all assembled in the Chapel to witness a beautiful Christmas tree, from which suspended an endless variety of toys and valuable gifts, and to receive each in his or her turn a present before they separated. The whole affair was certainly very creditable to those who had it in charge.

ON THE ISLANDS OF CHARITY.

The Commissioners of Charities and Correction left the City at 10½ A. M., and proceeded to Randall's and Blackwell's Islands, having previously provided, for the benefit of the young inmates of the Institutions and the inmates of the Lunatic Asylum, a bountiful supply of poultry and other acceptable donations. Brief addresses were made by the Commissioners, and happily responded to by one of the children. A profusion of toys, books, &c., the gift of Mrs. GIBBONS, matron in one of the Washington hospitals, was distributed among them, and were received with unmistakable evidence of rapturous pleasure. Of course, the inmates of the penal institutions did not share in this yearly munificence. The Commissioners expressed themselves highly gratified with their visit.

A CHRISTMAS DINNER AT THE NEWS-BOYS' HOME.

The poor boys of the News-Boys' Lodging-house, No. 128 Fulton-street, had a good dinner provided for them on Christmas Day, by their considerate friends which they enjoyed with a due appreciation of the generosity of their benefactors. The Superintendent is making an effort to give these lads a supply of garments on New-Year's Day. The season is very cold, and they are in much need of such a present. A good suit of clothes is about the best New-Year's gift each of these hard-working lads could receive, and we hope their kind friends will remember it.

FAIR FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE CHILDREN OF VOLUNTEERS.

This fair, which has been open for several days at No. 594 Broadway, was well patronized by both ladies and gentlemen yesterday. Between sixty and seventy children have already been taken in charge by the managers, and the number would be much larger if the funds would admit of it. To-night, a New-England kitchen, as it appeared two hundred years ago, will be exhibited. Those who wish to see an old-fashioned fire-place, ancient platters and tea sets, a cradle that has rocked ten generations, and, in fact, everything that completes the arrangements of an 1661 kitchen, should not fail to be present to-night. Massive home-made pies and other good things will be served, and those who are so disposed can join a social apple-paring circle.

CENTRAL PARK—NO SKATING—THE BOYS SADLY DISAPPOINTED.

The announcement in the papers of Tuesday, that the lower pond in the Central Park (on Fifty-ninth-street, between Fifth and Sixth avenues,) would be thrown open to the public, drew many hundreds there yesterday morning at an early hour, but long before the car reached the terminus of the road, the red flag (the sign of danger) was seen, and as the word was passed from car to car, the faces of the juvenile throng elongated most woefully. Hoping against hope, however, they pressed on, only to be met by the courteous policeman and the ominous word "danger" posted along the edges of the pond. The centre of the pond was temptingly smooth and glassy as a mirror, and hundreds of eyes peered wistfully across the tempting space. But there was no help for it, and although hundreds would gladly have risked a ducking for the possible chance of a brief period of skating, they were debarred even from that, and turned sorrowfully away, slinging their skates, with a sad and half-dissatisfied air. They were not to be baulked, however, by red flags or policemen, but hurried over to the puddles east of the Fifth and Fourth avenues, which were dignified for the occasion with the name of ponds, and these soon presented the appearance of a slate covered with flies. In a very short time the ice on them was so cut up as to render skating anything but a pastime, yet while scores sulkily unstrapped their skates, and moved homeward, hundreds continued to arrive, determined not to be baulked of their Christmas amusement. And so it was kept up through the day, from sunrise until sunset, by which time the ice was so thoroughly used up as to render skating about as pleasant as moving through a snowdrift. There were in the early part of the day some remarkable skaters, one especially so marvelously graceful and skillful that, notwithstanding the general desire to participate in the fun, as long as the ice lasted, a space was at once cleared and a large circle formed to witness his performances, whenever he attempted to move about. During the afternoon, some two or three broke through the ice, but the water was only deep enough to wet them as far as their waists, greatly to the delight of the lookers on, and save these, not a single occurrence transpired to mar the pleasure of the day. Indeed, everybody seemed to feel that everybody had a right to as much enjoyment as could be crowded into the brief hours of daylight, and no one interfered with his neighbor. Several well-dressed misses were on the ponds in the early part of the day, but as the crowd increased they prudently left, though not from any apprehension of being annoyed or molested.

CHRISTMAS IN BROOKLYN.

The memory of man extendeth not back to the time when the weather was more propitious for a holiday than yesterday, and right well was it improved by all. All business throughout the city was suspended, and even the bar-rooms—an unusual occurrence—were very generally closed. In many of the churches there was the usual service or a festival. At an early hour in the morning the usual Mass was sung in the Catholic churches, which were appropriately decorated for the occasion, as were the Episcopal, Universalist and some of the Unitarian and Presbyterian Churches. Those who sought pleasure in out-door sports, found it. The skating-ponds were particular objects of attraction. From an early hour until late every skating-pond within the city limits presented an animated scene, as it was the first opportunity for skating the present season. Constitutional Engine Company No. 7 took occasion to bring home their new steam-engine, manufactured by the Amoskeag Manufacturing Company of Manchester, N. H., at the expense of $3,700. This engine is one of the best yet made, and is finished and mounted in the best style. The "boys" of No. 7 are as pleased with it as a child with a new doll, and well they may be, for, besides being useful, it is a beautiful thing to look upon. The Company received the machine in New-York in the morning, and, preceded by a band of music, crossed to this city, and, after marching through some of the principal thoroughfares, drew up in front of their house, on Front, near Bridge-street. The house of Engine Company No. 7 has just been completed at a cost of $3,400. The building is 50x25 feet, and is constructed of brick, with brown-stone facings, and is three stories high. The lower story is the engine-room, and the two upper stories are used for other company purposes. The old and young, everywhere, seemed bent upon enjoyment, and nothing occurred to mar the festivities of the occasion.

CHRISTMAS IN JERSEY CITY.

Several of the churches were open yesterday forenoon for Divine service, and were well attended.

The South Seventh-street Mission Sabbath School had a celebration in the forenoon, at which there were addresses, singing and speaking, &c. At the close the children were each presented with a paper bag, filled with cakes, candies, nuts and other good things.

The children belonging to the Union Industrial School were supplied with an abundance of luxuries, which were donated by benevolent citizens for the occasion.

The inmates of the Almshouse, through the kindness of the Common Council Committee, had a change of diet, and fared sumptuously on poultry, puddings and other luxuries, which they devoured and duly appreciated.

A fair and festival was opened, at Metropolitan Hall, for the benefit of the Catholic Orphan Asylum, and was well patronized. It will continue open until Saturday evening.

The Anniversary exercises of the Hedding Methodist Episcopal Church took place, last evening, and the entertainment consisted of dialogues, recitations, and singing by the children.

Lake Lincoln, on Bergen Hill, was thrown open to the public, for the first time, yesterday, and although the ice was not in as good condition as was desired, several hundred persons were upon the ice during the day. In the evening, it was brilliantly lighted, and was thronged with skaters.

Christmas in Boston.

BOSTON, Wednesday, Dec. 25.

There was a general suspension of business to-day, in observance of Christmas. The weather is clear and cold.

Fire at Peekskill.

PEEKSKILL, Tuesday, Dec. 24, 1861.

During last night snow fell in this vicinity to the depth of several inches, but drifted in some places to several feet.

A fire broke out at 3:30 this morning in the large double house in South-street, used as a young ladies' boarding-school, and kept by Madame POTTER. In half an hour the whole building was in ashes. A strong southeasterly wind prevailed at the time; but, owing to the snow on the roofs of the adjoining buildings, and the exertions of our firemen, the fire spread no further. It is supposed the fire was caused by a strong fire in the heater, situated in the cellar. The property was insured for two-thirds of its value. H.

Personal.

—Gen. Lander is so far recovered from the wound received at the battle near Leesburgh, as to be able to ride out.

—Some of the leading citizens of Kingston, Canada, have presented Dr. Barker, the editor of the Kingston *Whig*, with a Hoe's power press.

THE NEW-YORK WEEKLY TIMES.

THE NEW-YORK WEEKLY TIMES, No. 536, is published THIS MORNING, and may be had at the counter in wrappers ready for mailing. It contains:

I.—THE LATEST INTELLIGENCE RECEIVED BY TELEGRAPH up to the moment of going to press.

II.—LEADING ARTICLES—Our English Relations—Irish Sympathies and English Antipathies—England's Demand for Redress—The Death of Prince Albert—The Rebel Craving for Maryland—The Case of the Colored Steward William Tillman.

III.—EUROPEAN NEWS—Six Days Later from Europe—Arrival of the *America* at Halifax—The *Arago*, Edinburgh and Persia off Cape Race—Death of Prince Albert—Gen. Scott a Passenger by the *Arago*—He has a Long Interview with Prince Napoleon—Reported Desire of the French Emperor to Preserve Peace—The War Preparations in Great Britain—A Pacific Solution of the Trent Question Believed Possible—Anti-War Mass Meeting in Dublin—Significant Resolutions Passed.

IV.—THE GALLANT AFFAIR AT DRAINESVILLE—Particulars of the Battle—Gen. MCCALL's Plans Known to the Rebels—Great Effectiveness of EASTON's Batteries—The Rebels Routed by an Infantry Charge—Muskets, Swords, Pistols, Ammunition, Knapsacks and Coats left Behind—The Rebel Loss Estimated at One Hundred and Fifty Killed and Wounded.

V.—GOOD NEWS FROM MISSOURI—Capture of an Entire Rebel Camp—Thirteen Hundred Prisoners Taken, including three Colonels and seventeen Captains—A thousand stand of arms, sixty-five wagons, a thousand horses, two tons of powder, &c., captured.

VI.—THE WAR IN THE WEST—The Preparations for the Expedition into the Heart of Rebeldom—Marshaling the Gunboats and the Mortar Floats—How Columbus is to be Reduced—Rebel Fortifications on the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers—View of the Great Strategic Movements in Kentucky—The Advance of Gen. Buell Across Green River—Buckner to be Overwhelmed—Interesting Intelligence from Missouri and Kansas.

VII.—BRILLIANT EXPLOIT IN GALVESTON BAY—Capture of the Privateer Royal Yacht—Attempt to Cut Out the Steamer Rusk—Resistance of the Rebels—Bravery of the National Forces.

VIII.—IMPORTANT FROM PARIS—How the Trent Affair is Received in France—Opinions of the French Press—Gen. Scott—Preparations of Americans to Return Home, &c.

IX.—OUR LONDON CORRESPONDENCE—The Case of the Nashville—Hospitalities of the Southampton People—Corruption of the Press—Capt. Nelson Everywhere Denied Redress—Indignation of Americans—The News from the Trent—The Government and the Press for War—An Estimate of the Situation.

X.—FROM CANADA—Another Council of War—The War Feeling Among the Canadians.

XI.—UNITED STATES OF COLOMBIA—Important from Bogota—The State of Santander Pacified—Gen. Mosquera Gone to Antioquia—Troops Sent there from Bogota—The State of Cauca—Political Conspiracy at Panama—Banishment of the Conspirators—Miscellaneous Items.

XII.—WENDELL PHILLIPS ON THE WAR—Its Causes and its Cure—He Stands by the Government—The British the Most Selfish and Treacherous of Modern Governments—How to Quiet Great Britain—Tremendous Meeting and Great Enthusiasm.

XIII.—THE INDIANS AND THE GOVERNMENT—The Red Men at Washington—They Witness a Review—Their Idea of the Rebellion—Machinations of the Confederates.

XIV.—A SUMMARY OF THE REBELLION NEWS, Showing how the Question is Viewed Abroad, and giving all the Telegraphic Dispatches and Correspondence in brief.

XV.—A SUMMARY OF THE GENERAL NEWS, both Foreign and Domestic—Events at Home.

XVI.—ITEMS OF AGRICULTURAL AND DOMESTIC INTEREST, compiled from various sources, many of which are inaccessible to the American reader.

XVII.—A PAGE OF CAREFULLY-PREPARED COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE, containing full reports of the markets and the latest quotations.

Presents.—LADIES, MISSES AND CHILDREN cannot receive a more appropriate gift than can be selected from the assortment of gaiters, slippers and shoes, or a pair of Balmorals, from CANTRELL'S, No. 813 Broadway.

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MARRIED.

FOWLER—HAINS.—In this City, on Tuesday evening, Dec. 24, by Rev. Wm. Hague, D. D., AUGUSTUS M. FOWLER, of Brooklyn, to LYDIA A. HAINS, of this City.

TYLER—WELLS.—In Brooklyn, on Tuesday, Dec. 24, at the residence of N. T. Curtis, by Rev. J. S. Holme, CORYDON E. TYLER to LUCY WELLS.

CARPENTER—SMITH.—In Whately, Mass., on Monday, Dec. 16, at the residence of the bride's parents, ALPHEUS CARPENTER, of New-York City, to SARAH J. SMITH.

CABLE—MOREHOUSE.—In Brooklyn, on Tuesday, Dec. 24, by Rev. Charles Robinson, ROBERT B. CABLE to KATE, eldest daughter of Stephen B. Morehouse, all of Brooklyn.

DIED.

MERRILL.—In this City, on Tuesday, Dec. 24, after a short illness, FLORA SOPHIA, only daughter of Major H. W. and Louisa K. Merrill, aged 3 years and 9 months.

The friends of the family, and of her uncles, Nelson Merrill and James Green, are respectfully invited to attend her funeral, at the residence of the latter, No. 220 5th-av., on Friday, the 27th inst., at 2 o'clock, without further invitation.

SULLIVAN.—In this City, on Tuesday morning, Dec. 24, CLARA, wife of Charles Sullivan, and daughter of the late Samuel Waldo, in the 33d year of her age.

Friends are invited to attend the funeral, on Friday morning, at 10 o'clock, from the New-Jerusalem Church, 35th-st., between 4th and Lexington avs.

MORTON.—In this City, on Tuesday, Dec. 24, of consumption, ALBINA LOUISE MORTON, daughter of the late Henry Morton.

The friends and relatives are respectfully invited to attend her funeral, on Friday, the 27th inst., at 1 o'clock, from her late residence, No. 170 West 34th-st.

TROTTER.—In this City, on Tuesday morning, Dec. 24, ALEXANDER TROTTER, aged 35 years.

The relatives and friends of the family, also the members of Columbian Lodge No. 484, F. and A. M., and Diamond Lodge No. 140, I. O. of O. F., are most respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from his late residence, No. 68 Cannon-st., on Thursday, at 1 o'clock P. M., without further invitation. His remains will be interred in the Cemetery of the Evergreens.

BEVAN.—In this City, on Wednesday, Dec. 25, Miss HARRIET M. BEVAN, in the 41st year of her age.

Friends and relatives are invited to attend her funeral, at her late residence, No. 251 East Broadway, on Friday, 27th inst., at 1½ o'clock P. M.

BUXTON.—In this City, on Tuesday, Dec. 24, suddenly, Miss ANN MARIA BUXTON.

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from the residence of her brother, V. L. Buxton, No. 120 West 10th-st., on Friday afternoon, at 1 o'clock.

COVELL.—In this City, on Tuesday, Dec. 24, in the full triumph of faith, and in the hope of a glorious immortality, HORACE AUGUSTUS COVELL, in the 23d year of his age.

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, on Friday afternoon, at 3 o'clock, from his late residence, No. 212 East Broadway.

FORSBERG.—In this City, on Wednesday, Dec. 25, after a long illness, ALEXANDER FORSBERG, aged 26 years and 4 months.

His friends are respectfully invited to attend his funeral, at the residence of Miss Graham, No 5 West Washington-place, on Friday, 27th inst., at 11 o'clock, without further invitation.

FREELAND.—On Christmas Day, SOPHIA, youngest daughter of Aaron M. and Sophia Freeland, in the 4th year of her age.

Notice of funeral to-morrow.

BROOKS.—In Brooklyn, on Tuesday, Dec. 24, DANIEL BROOKS, M. D., in the 48th year of his age.

The relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend his funeral, on Friday, the 27th inst., from the Presbyterian Church, (Dr. Spees',) corner of Clinton and Amity sts., at 2 o'clock P. M., without further invitation.

VARNUM.—In Brooklyn, Wednesday, Dec. 25, ABA VARNUM, aged 55 years, 7 months and 20 days.

The friends and acquaintances, also members of Nassau Lodge No. 39, are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from Hanson-place Methodist Church, on Friday, Dec. 27, at 2 P. M., without further notice.

☞ Vermont papers please copy.

DEBOE.—In Brooklyn, on Tuesday, Dec. 24, of consumption, ADELAIDE, youngest daughter of the late Isaac, and Rachael Deboe.

The relatives and friends of the family, and the members of the Washington-st. and Fleet-st. M. E. Churches, are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from the residence of her mother, No. 197 Schermerhorn-st., on Friday, 27th inst., at 1½ o'clock P. M.

OAKES.—In Bloomfield, N. J., on Tuesday evening, Dec. 24, GEORGE A. OAKES, aged 27 years.

The friends and relatives are invited to attend the funeral, on Friday afternoon, at 1 o'clock, from the residence of his father, David Oakes.

DIAMOND LODGE No. 140, I. O. OF O. F.—The members of this Lodge are requested to meet at their Lodge-room, corner of Grand and Centre sts., on Thursday, Dec. 26, at 12 o'clock M., to attend the funeral of our late worthy brother, ALEXANDER TROTTER. Members of the Order are respectfully invited to attend.

R. T. WELSH, N. G.
JOSEPH ASH, Secretary.

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POLITICAL.

SEVENTEENTH WARD REPUBLICAN ASSOCIATION.—In pursuance of the call of the Republican Central Committee a primary election will be held at the headquarters of the Association, Lincoln Hall, No. 109 East Houston-st., on FRIDAY EVENING, Dec. 27, 1861, for the purpose of choosing officers of the Association and delegates to the various Committees for the ensuing year. Polls open from 7 to 9 o'clock.
JAMES S. RYERSON,
First Vice-President, Acting President.
CHARLES H. GROVES, Secretary.

TWENTIETH WARD REPUBLICAN ASSOCIATION.—In pursuance of the call of the Republican Central Committee, this Association will meet at its headquarters, northwest corner of 8th-av., and 33d-st., on FRIDAY EVENING, Dec. 27, at 7 P. M., to elect, by ballot, delegates to the Central Committees, and officers of the Association for the ensuing year. The polls will open at 7 P. M., and close at 9 P. M.
CUMMINGS H. TUCKER, President.
DAVID MCADAM, Secretary.

EIGHTH WARD REPUBLICAN ASSOCIATION.—Pursuant to the call of the Republican Central Committee, an election will be held at Headquarters, No. 179 Prince-st., upon FRIDAY EVENING, 27th inst., for the purpose of electing Delegates to the Central Committees for the incoming year. Polls open from 7 to 9 P. M.
ANDREW B

AGRICULTURAL AND DOMESTIC.

THEORY BARNS.—The *Massachusetts Ploughman* has the following eminently sensible remarks on a very important subject: "Cattle must have air, or they die. Hay must have air, or it becomes musty. Corn must have air in the crib, or it rots. Many farmers seem not to understand this; and they inclose their barns as tight as double-boarding will permit—making it necessary to give their hay two or three hours more sunning than it would need in barns that admit some air between the boards. It is an universal law that all living animals require air. Even fish in the ponds die very soon when deprived of air. They inhale a small quantity through their gills; and, by closing these gills tight with twine, they die in their own element. Some animals require much more than others. Those living under water require the least, while the fowls of the air require the greatest quantity, and their blood is warmer than that of cattle. But the blood of fishes is comparatively cold. The alarming fever among cattle, which prevailed here last year, was generally supposed to have come from Holland, whence Mr. Chenery, of Belmont, imported his cows. Different opinions were given on this point; but most of the papers on farming were filled with accounts of fevers that had often prevailed in Germany, England and France. And they had not the least doubt that Mr. Chenery had imported the German fever with the German cows. But we are now confirmed in the opinions heretofore expressed by us—for Mr. Chenery himself told us, last week, that he had no doubt the fever among his cattle was caused by their being confined closely in his very tight barn. His agent, also, who has the care of his cattle, stated to us explicitly that the want of free air was the sole cause of the fever. And now for tight barns. Why will practical farmers continue to throw away their money in building barns so tight that the cattle cannot breathe in them—so tight that the hay becomes musty, and the horses become diseased with the heaves? We have been recently informed that a gentleman in Walpole has been building a barn so costly that but few farmers could think of imitating it. The cost was $6,000. Well, it was filled with hay last Summer, but it could not hold hay. Soon after haying was over the owner went into his barn, and declared that the hay was on fire. It actually smoked so much that he thought spontaneous combustion must take place. He ordered the mows to be overhauled, and the side-boards to be opened to let in air. His hay, of course, was nearly spoiled, and would be worthless without removal. It is cruel to keep cattle tied up in cold barns, as many have done, where drafts of air pass through, and the frost freezes hard the manure behind them. But the poorest farmer can prevent all this, if he has ingenuity enough to place his principal haymow on the cold sides of his barn, to stop all draft of air through it. The hay may be dealt out in Winter in such a way as to leave that portion of the mow on the cold side or sides untouched till mild weather comes. A hay-cutter will leave the mow in good trim. The wall boards of barns should not be jointed. It is loss of labor and of lumber to make the edges straight by planing or jointing. Good barn boards will come together quite close enough by merely pressing them together by means of a small iron bar. Boards put on in this way will keep the snow out, and let a little air in—enough to keep hay from spoiling and cattle from catching fevers."

CHURNING IN WINTER.—You cannot get butter out of milk if there is none in it. Feed the cows well, and thus secure good milk, and there is not much trouble in churning even in Winter. Keep the cream in a warm room till it turns somewhat sour. Let the churn be scalded before putting in the cream, so that it will be well heated through and not cool the cream. Let the cream be at a temperature of 65° to 70°, and there will not be much difficulty in making the butter come. We see it stated that if a little rennet is added to the cream just before churning, it will help materially. We think this quite likely, as it would help to generate lactic acid. But do not put in too much.—*Ex.*

RABBIT BREEDING IN FRANCE.—The *Aigle du Midi* states that a farmer named Pinel, of Revel, in the department of the Haute-Garonne, has lately commenced breeding rabbits on an extensive scale for consumption, and that he expects the operation to be successful in a commercial point of view. In the space of five months, from May last, he, with fifty female and five male rabbits, obtained 1,300 young, and he now intends to have 200 females. By allowing these latter to produce only every two months, instead of every month, as they can do, he calculates that he can procure 500 rabbits a month, or 6,000 a year. He has had constructed a large shed, 30 yards long by 20 wide and 40 high, and in it are 140 compartments, of which 10 are set apart for young rabbits separated from their dams, 14 for the adults, 12 for the males, and the rest for doe rabbits and other purposes. Pinel makes this calculation: Out of 270 rabits born every month, the average number of deaths is 12, so that there remain for sale 258, which can be disposed of for 22 cents each, making $56 76, or $681 12 a year. This sum is increased to $931 by the sale of the manure. The expense of producing 258 rabbits is estimated at $274, so that a clear profit remains of $657. As rabbits can be fed in great part on the refuse of the farm-house and farm-yard, it is thought that peasants might, like Pinel, breed them with advantage.

THE POTATO CROP IN SCOTLAND.—The *Scottish Farmer* says: "In all the best potato growing districts the crop, as a whole, is a sad wreck. On the rich black loams in the north and west of Scotland—more especially those in the neighborhood of the towns, and which were highly manured—the disease appeared early. The crops that were not speedily sent to market soon became entirely unfit for any purpose. In numerous instances, on retentive soils, it was never gathered, but plowed under. In the same districts, where the land is poorer, on peaty and moory soils, and particularly when there was no great forcing with nitrogenous manures, the larger portion of the crop is yet sound, though the tubes are small and watery. Indeed, the crop is so inferior in quality that it will be only fit for seed. It is well known that unripened potatoes produce more vigorous shoots than those which are dry and starchy. We have little doubt, therefore, that good seed will not be quite so scarce a commodity as was at one time expected.

TO REMOVE CLINKERS FROM STOVES.—Some kinds of coal are liable to form clinkers which adhere to the fire-brick lining of stoves, grates and furnaces, and become a source of great annoyance, as they cannot be removed by usual means without breaking the fire-brick. Persons who are thus annoyed will be glad to know that by putting a few oyster shells in the fire close to the clinkers, the latter will become so loose as to be readily removed without breaking the lining.—*Scientific American.*

CHEAP MARINE GLUE.—The celebrated marine glue is composed of a solution of India-rubber and lac varnish, and it really does not contain a particle of genuine glue. As lac is becoming dearer every year, a substitute for it has been sought in the manufacture of marine glue, which is so well adapted for coating the interior of aquariums, wooden water tanks, and for caulking seams of ships. It is stated that asphaltum dissolved in refined naphtha with some India-rubber makes a cheap and very good marine glue.

IRON CEMENT.—To prepare iron cement for stopping leaks, take sixteen parts of clean wrought iron filings, three parts powdered salammoniac and two parts flower of sulphur; mix all well together, and preserve the compound in a stoppered vessel and in a dry place till wanted for use. Then take one part of the mixture and add to it twelve parts of clean iron filings, and mix this new compound with as much water as will bring it to the consistency of a paste, having previously added to the water a few drops of sulphuric acid.

WORKING CATTLE.—The *Prairie Farmer* has a sensible article in regard to working cattle—thinking them preferable to horses for the "drudgery" of the farm, plowing, harrowing, heavy hauling, &c. We are inclined to except the harrowing. A fast-walking span of horses is best for this operation. It thinks the demand for army uses should induce farmers to keep more working oxen.

COLTS ON A HARD FLOOR.—Some people state that colts should stand on a board floor, in order to toughen them for a hard road. It looks to me like putting hard, thick shoes on an infant's foot to raise corns that will trouble them for life. Let colts stand on a soft, moist floor, says the *New-England Farmer.*

CURE FOR HOG CHOLERA.—A correspondent of a Western paper states that the following has been used in Kentucky, with success: One part madder, one part sulphur, one-half part saltpetre, and one-half part black antimony, mixed, and give one tablespoonful twice a day. As a preventive give one tablespoonful a day.

POTATOES TWO YEARS OLD.—A correspondent of the *Scottish Farmer* says that a large quantity of potatoes were accidentally buried about six feet deep in an old ice well. Two years after, in digging to remove the stones from the well, the workmen came upon the potatoes, and found nearly the whole in an excellent state of preservation.

SMOKE-HOUSES—HOW BUILT.—A smoke-house should be square, its size varying from four to eight feet in diameter, according to the quantity of meat to be smoked; the lower portion, to the height of five feet, should be of brick, with a door lined with sheet-iron. This part may serve both as an ash-house and as the proper place for the fire to furnish the smoke. Fire should be placed in the middle, and covered with the material to be burned, so that the mass, being surrounded by ashes, may maintain the ignition for a long time, giving off the smoke with regularity. The upper part may be wood, and the separation from the lower part by joists, covered with scantling, so as to leave space averaging three inches in diameter, for the ascent of the smoke. The height of this upper portion may be four feet, besides the ascent of the roof, and should be furnished with a door that may be locked, so that the door to the lower portion will not give ingress to the meat-room. This separation between the two portions, will catch any piece of meat which may accidentally fall, while the lower portion need not be locked, so as to enable the frequent removal of ashes from the house, and proper attention to the fire to be more readily performed. Sawdust, placed over a few ignited coals, will furnish the necessary material for smoking the meat. The sawdust, however, should be from such wood as is most free from resinous matter. The pyroligneous acid evaporated is of a better flavor from hard than from soft woods, while the amount of creosote, which is the preservative property, will be the same.—*Working Farmer.*

Manufacture of Army Blankets in England.

The appended statements, if they properly come within the scope of MR. VAN WYCK'S investigating Committee, are deserving examination. They are taken from a private letter written by an Englishman, who has been himself engaged in the manufacturing business. A residence of some months in this country may explain the fact that his sympathies are with the Government in its efforts to suppress the rebellion. For obvious reasons the name of the writer and the locality from which he writes are not given. The letter is dated Nov. 20, and says:

"The National Government has an immense army under it, for which it has to provide food and clothing. That this army is well fed the whole civilized world knows. It is quite as essential that the men who constitute it should be well clothed; and that this may be accomplished the clothing ought to be made in your own country;—made by responsible men, over whom the Government could exercise some degree of supervision. The severity of your Winters requires that it should be warm and durable; but, strange to say, vast orders are finding their way into this neighborhood, especially for blankets and rugs. Immense quantities of these goods are made all around us, and they are made, too, out of the veriest rubbish which it is possible to get to hang together.

The lowest kind of shoddy is made into gray blankets for your soldiers, and as a consequence they will have neither warmth nor wear in them. This material costs the manufacturer about one cent a pound. The blankets have very little wool in them;—in fact, I have every reason to believe that most of them have none at all, only a little worsted waste mixed in with the material to make it spin.

My judgment is that your Government is making a serious blunder in allowing these orders to find their way here. Time will show whether I am right or wrong, but I will give you some of my reasons for this conclusion. When our army was encamped, a few years ago, on the bleak hills of the Crimea, exposed to a Winter or two, somewhat similar in severity to your own, the principal part of their clothing, as I know from personal observation, was made of shoddy, and what was the consequence? Why the men perished by hundreds, and, in the depth of the Crimean Winter, were in rags. So Lord CARDIGAN testified before the Select Committee of the House of Commons, appointed to inquire into the disastrous and fatal mismanagement of the Commissariat of the Government. But their inquiries were all in vain. The finest army that ever left the British shores perished, and to shoddy and shoddy cloth manufacturers belonged a pretty good share of the responsibility and the blame. Now is your Government going to re-enact a similar blunder? I hope not.

I know that the manufacturers here who are making these goods, would rather rejoice than otherwise if your army should suffer defeat through their rascality. They are thoroughly Southern in their sympathies, and would hail with joy news of the discomfiture of the National arms.

* * * * * * *

I can assure you that the manufacturers here will never forgive the National Government for enacting the Morrill Tariff. Our shoddy manufacturers expected to go on cheating 'Brother Jonathan' for all time. If your people will have shoddy-cloth they cannot do better than have it made at home, as they not only get the wages and the profits, but your rags are worth four times as much as ours."

Cure for Chilblains.

NEW-YORK, Sunday, Dec. 22, 1861.

As doubtless many of our volunteers are now suffering from chilblains or frosted feet and hands, I beg you will publish in your valuable paper, for their benefit, the following cheap, simple and efficacious cure for chilblains:

Rub a few drops of spirits of turpentine on the affected parts three times a day.

The most obstinate cases will be cured with a little perseverance, as I know by experience, having been very much troubled with chilblains; and although I have tried a great many prescriptions, I have never found any certain cure but the above. It has been used in my case for chilblains that had not opened, but I have no doubt that it will be found equally efficacious for open chilblains. Yours, respectfully, M.

—Hon. W. P. Sheffield, of Rhode Island, is a most unfortunate man. Some time ago, while in this City, he fell and fractured his leg in such a way that he was laid up for months. Just now he is attending to his duties as member of Congress, and a few days since, while alighting from an omnibus in front of the Interior Department, a sudden start of the vehicle threw him to the ground. Some severe bruises, from which his injured limb was not exempt, were the result.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, Dec. 25, 1861.

Compared with the previous week, there has been a heavy falling off in receipts, and particularly so of hogs. As the principal market day was the first of the holidays, drovers held back to give place to chickens and turkeys, the consumption of which will occupy the best part of the coming week. Beeves figure light for any other than poultry week, the receipts being but 3,235. Many of them were heavy animals for Christmas beef, so that the supply was ample for all wants. The droves came in quite scattering, the latest arrivals being at near 3 P. M. on Tuesday. As it was well known that they were expected, buyers were backward in making their purchases. The yards were barely emptied under forced sales toward night.... Milch cows have undergone no change during the week. Few have been sent in, but quite enough for all wants.... Veals sells quicker, owing to a light supply.... Sheep are scarce and rather higher, fair to good lots selling at 4½c.@5c. ℔ lb., live weight.... Live hogs are not so abundant, but would be considered plenty in ordinary seasons. They are now being used up as fast as they arrive, at improving rates.

The following figures, carefully compiled from our former reports, and from statistics gathered at all the City yards, give a comparative view of the past market supplies, and show the

TOTAL RECEIPTS OF LIVE STOCK AT ALL THE NEW-YORK CITY MARKETS FOR THE WEEK ENDING DEC. 25.

	Beeves.	Milch Cows.	Veals.	Sheep.	Swine.
This week	3,235	72	176	8,063	17,501
Previous week	4,091	151	481	9,862	38,200
Corresponding week last year	2,754	86	298	9,307	12,511

Weekly average of beeves for 1860.....4,360
Weekly average of beeves for 1859.....3,950
Weekly average of beeves for 1858.....3,676
Weekly average of beeves for 1857.....3,143

Total number of live animals of all kinds received during the past week at the New-York City yards, 29,047. Total number received the previous week, 52,785, being but little more than half the number received last week.

Of the 3,235 fresh bullocks received during this week, 3,016 were taken to the Washington Yards, Forty-fourth-street; 75 were yarded at BROWNING'S; 83 at O'BRIEN'S, on Sixth-street; 61 at CHAMBERLIN'S yards on Robinson-street.

Of the 3,016 bullocks yarded at Forty-fourth-street, this week, so far as we could ascertain their origin, 1,389 head came from New-York, 461 from Illinois, 547 from Ohio, 309 from Indiana, 20 from Canada, 347 from Kentucky, 60 from Connecticut, 230 from Michigan, — from New-Jersey, — from Iowa.

The 3,016 beeves yarded at Forty-fourth-street came in by the following routes: Erie Railroad, 1,276; Hudson River Railroad, 731; New-Haven Central Railroad, 37; Harlem Railroad, 775; Hudson River boats, 14; on foot, 114; New-Haven Railroad, 69; Camden and Amboy Railroad, —.

The Erie Railroad brought 1,458 cattle, 5,275 hogs, 3,400 sheep and 24 horses during the past week, being 42 stock cars less than the previous week.

CATTLE-MARKET AT FORTY-FOURTH STREET.

As it was well understood that the market would close on Tuesday, previous to Christmas, an attempt was made to have all the stock in by Monday night, but owing to snow and ice on some of the railroads, the final arrivals were not until late in the afternoon of Tuesday. The knowledge that cattle are on the way and hourly expected at the yards, always injures the trade. This was particularly the case to-day, when, from the smallness of the numbers, brokers tried to spring the market ¾c. ℔ lb. The early transactions were at a marked advance from last week, but when it was known that many cars were behind, and that the supply on hand and to arrive would be ample for holiday week, prices fell back to former quotations, or even lower on the closing rates, with forced sales to clear the yards.

Taking the average of this week's sales, and setting down those of last week for comparison, we have the following:

	This Week.	Last Week.
Premium	9½c.@9½c.	9¾c.@9¾c.
First quality	8¾c.@9¼c.	8½c.@9c.
Medium to good	7¾c.@8¾c.	7½c.@8¼c.
Poor quality	6¾c.@7¼c.	6¼c.@6¾c.
Poorest quality	5½c.@6c.	5c. @5c.
General selling prices	7½c.@8¾c.	7c.@8½c.
Average of all sales	8c. @8¾c.	7¾c.@8¾c

Some extra fat beeves were in the yards, one lot of which—53 in number—were reported to average over 8½c., and another smaller lot footed up between 9c. and 10c. A few head were sold at $325@$350 ℔ pair, but as they were very large and fat, estimated to dress over 32 cwt., it was only 10c. ℔ lb. Poor stock sold slowly, and the demand for extra fat bullocks was limited by a lighter demand for this kind when exposed for sale on the butchers' stalls.

The following notes of particular lots, embracing all classes, will convey an idea of the various transactions extending through the entire market:

A. B. MEAD had one car-load of Ohio cattle, for WM. SNYDER. A coarse lot of 6 cwt. to 10 cwt., at 7c. @8¾c.; and 13 State cattle for neighbor farmers. A fair to good bunch of 6 cwt. to 9 cwt., and averaged 8½c. The best sold for 9c.

H. BARNES had one pair of holiday cattle, raised and fed by J. P. HOAXON, in Newcastle, Westchester County, N. Y. They were six years old, very large and fat, and weighed 50 cwt. one month ago. Good judges called them the best pair offered at Bull's Head this season. They were taken by D. CONKLIN at 10c. Mr. BARNES was also selling a few country cattle at 8c.

L. BEERS had eight fine Connecticut cattle, large and fat, rated 13 cwt., at 9c.@9½c.

Also, 32 from the same State, for several owners. A fair bunch, which brought 7¾c.@8¾c.

T. & D. S. DOTY sold 53 choice fat Dutchess County cattle on their own account at 8¾c.@9c. on 8½ cwt. They were reported fed by WM. P. MCINTYRE, and were one of the good lots on sale.

MILLS & PHILLIPS brought in a car load of large State cattle; they were raised on the farm of the late ALLEN AYRAULT, in the Genesee valley; there was no car load which excelled them in quality; rated 11 cwt., and sold at $101 each; they were 3 years old, a cross of the Hereford and Durham stock. We learn that good fat cattle will continue to come from this noted stock farm as formerly.

D. G. CULVER was selling on his own account 50 good Dutchess County cattle, of 8½ cwt. to 12 cwt., which were running out at 8c.@9¼c. They were a fine killing lot.

B. WESTHEIMER was selling for MORRIS & RAHMAN, of Chicago, 12 large fat cattle. One pair of them were very extra steers, which sold for $3 50. They would dress 3,250 lbs. in the beef. They were for C. BECK. One fat heifer was sold for $100 or 10c. ℔ lb.

J. BEDELL brought in a very fine heifer from Livingston County, N. Y. She was from the Association Company's bull *Usurper*, an imported short horn, and was estimated to weigh 14 cwt. in the beef, and was taken by JULIUS STRAUS, at 10c. She was sold by SHEPARD & VAIL.

T. C. EASTMAN was running out a fat bunch of Ohio cattle, owned and fed by D. SELSER, in Madison County. Home weight a trifle over 19 cwt., and 1,810 lbs. at Dunkirk. They were selling at 9c.@10c. ℔ lb.

S. ULRAY was selling 65 of ALEXANDER'S cattle. Just a fair bunch, rated 7½ cwt., strong, and running out at 7½c.@8¾c.

J. C. HOAG & BRO. were selling 81 Illinois cattle for CAPT. HUTCHINSON. A good lot of 7 cwt., and averaged 8c. They were fed on the Captain's corn, this time. Also, 30 Dutchess County cattle, with a good top, which brought 9c., and so down to 8c. for the medium steers.

I. BUDLONG sold one car-load of Indiana cattle for CASE. An ordinary lot of steers and oxen, of 7 cwt., which sold for 7c.

C. W. CONGER, for PURDY & Co., 40 State cattle, steers, cows, and heifers, of medium flesh, rated 4 cwt. @ 6 cwt., at 7c.@7½c.

T. BROOME sold 27 Westchester County oxen, fair to good, of uneven weight, at 7c.@8¾c., near 9c. for a few of the best.

H. HURD sold, on his own account, 43 New-York and Ohio cattle, bought at the yards. They run from medium to very good, and retailed at 8c.@9c.

C. G. TEED, for E. W. GWYNNE, 56 Ohio steers, of good flesh, rated 8¾ cwt., which he sold at 8¾c.@9c.

SAGE, PICKERING & DUDLEY sold 35 State steers for COLE; a light, thin lot, which sold at 6c.@7c.; and for MCGIBNEY, 16 State steers, a mixed lot, at 6c.@8c.; also 45 Ohio cattle, for GROVE, a fair bunch of steers, rated 6¾ cwt., and sold at 7c.@8c.; and for RENSE, 35 State cattle, of fair flesh, 7 cwt., which averaged 8c.; and for COLEGROVE, 21 light, thin hoppers, at 6c.; and 19 for A. W. MILLS, 17 were old cows, at 6c.—1 pair of oxen brought $200, or 9c.

J. A. MERRITT sold 63 of J. T. ALEXANDER'S Illinois steers, rated 7¾ cwt., at 7¾c.@8¾c., and 12 head from Westchester County, rated 9@12 cwt.; 3 of them were extra fine oxen, which were taken by Capt. ESSEX, for $325 or 9½c. The balance brought 8c.@8½c.

MILCH COWS.

The light demand for cows during the present week is in keeping with the diminished supply. Only half as many have been sent in this week, as were received one week ago, but every want is supplied with no advance in quotations.

VEAL CALVES.

These attract little attention during holiday week. No changes in price are noted, the ruling rates being 4c.@5½c., according to quality.

SHEEP.

The lessened receipts are partially made up in increased size, though there is a scarcity of medium to good stock, which commands 5c. ℔ lb., live weight. There is no lack of fat holiday stock. This kind does not sell as well as in former years, butchers taking fewer "show animals." Some very fat sheep, which weighed 250 lbs. alive, have been sold at $20@$25 each.

BROWNING reports receipts of the following droves of sheep for the week: From New-York, 2,208 brought in—684 by L. Miller; 543, J. J. Plattner; 198, E. H. Tucker; 433, A. Rice; 24, R. L. Bamber; 172, T. B. Phetteplace; 154, J. Philips. From New-Jersey, 408 brought in—22 by J. N. Pidcock; 11, W. Bellis; 7, M. Williamson; 140, A. Robbins; 50, P. Vandeventer; 143, L. Bellis; 33, D. A. Flumersfelt. From Ohio—277 by H. Downing; 92, P. Vandeventer. From Michigan—338 by E. Terry; 104, Terry & Beadle. From Kentucky—51 by L. Bain. Total, 3,476.

R. H. HUNT sold—

104 sheep	$471 74	103 sheep	$653 25
51 sheep	596 50	162 sheep	615 00
10 sheep	84 50	147 sheep	955 06
338 sheep	2,675 00	925—Totals	$5,050 99

Average, $5 47 each. Most of the stock was very good, especially the 51 fat Kentucky sheep, which brought near $12 each. They were brought in by L. BAIN, and were the finest lot of the size which have been sold at BROWNING'S during the year.

HART & WEST sold—

420 sheep	$1,522 50	80 sheep	$300 00
198 sheep	603 00	172 sheep	677 12
Total	870		$3,202 62

Average, $3 90.

MCGRAW & O'BRIEN had 136 State sheep for J. Van Alstyne; 98, J. Rodman; 62, J. Clark; 16 R. Funk; also 20 New-Jersey sheep for R. White, and 248 from Canada brought in by F. Farrell.

The 63 by J. CLARK, of Henrietta, Monroe Co., N. Y., were a fine lot. Among them were 25, fed 3 years, by J. HALLOCK & BROTHER, which weighed 250 lbs. alive, and were sold at $15 to $25 each. MCGRAW sold 3 of the best to JOHN DONAVAN, of No. 19 Tompkins Market, at $25 ℔ head. They were the fattest sheep we have seen this season, and weighed 150 lbs. each, dressed, on the stall; the heaviest weighed 159 lbs. Mr. DONAVAN, who does not allow himself to be beaten in purchasing fat mutton and beef, paid over 10c. ℔ lb. for the meat.

In CLARK'S lot were 30 more extra fat sheep, fed by J. REEVES & BRO., also of Monroe County; home weight 175 lbs., and were held at $11 each.

Sales by MCGRAW & O'BRIEN:

136 sheep	$749 50	98 sheep	$390 25
248 sheep	1,159 12	24 sheep	197 50
Totals	506		$2,496 37

Average, $4 93 ℔ head.

CHAMBERLIN received 3,620 sheep, which were sold by KASE & MCPHERSON, JUDD & BUCKINGHAM, A. VAN WERT and JOHN KASE, W. S. CHAMBERLIN, and owners, as follows:

10 sheep	$20 00	161 sheep	$4 12
7 sheep	17 00	150 sheep	4 00
1 sheep	15 00	176 sheep	3 87
33 sheep	10 00	848 sheep	3 75
40 sheep	9 50	224 sheep	3 62
5 sheep	9 00	182 sheep	3 50
11 sheep	7 75	171 sheep	3 50
105 sheep	7 00	148 sheep	3 31
51 sheep	6 00	172 sheep	3 18
180 sheep	5 12½	132 sheep	2 87
146 sheep	4 50	191 sheep	2 75
187 sheep	4 37½	129 sheep	2 50
160 sheep	4 25		

SWINE.

Receipts are less than one-half what they were one week ago, but, with the large quantities left over from former markets, and the present free arrivals, as compared with former years, the advance from previous low quotations is only ¼c. ℔ lb. The stock is now well used up.

G. W. DORMAN, commission broker, at the Fortieth-street yards, reports prices for the current week as follows:

	Live.	Dressed.
Corn Hogs—Prime	3¾c.@4c.	4¾c. @5c.
Corn Hogs—Medium	3¾c.@4c.	5c. @5½c.
Corn Hogs—Light and fat	4c. @4¼c.	5¼c.@5½c.
Still Hogs	3¼c.@3½c.	4c. @4¼c.

Hogs selling quick, and will as long as the arrivals are as light as they are now.

Albany Live Stock Market.

ALBANY, Monday, Dec. 23, 1861.

BEEVES—The supply of cattle is extremely light. Various causes (the large supply of pork and poultry, and the holidays) combine at this season of the year to keep the drovers out of market; but the falling off in receipts is greater than we had anticipated. The Central Railroad having brought down only 95 car-loads, or 1,520 head, for the week, which is 700 head less than has been brought down during any other week the present year. The consequence is ready sales, at an advance of ¼c.@¾c. ℔ lb. on all grades. There are a few strictly extra in the yards, but no premium, and the average quality is much the same as that of last week.

RECEIPTS—The following is our comparative statement of receipts at this market over the Central Railroad, estimating 16 to the car:

	This week.	Last week.	Cor. week last year.
Cattle	1,520	3,291	1,615
Sheep	7,140	8,034	1,410
Hogs	2,970	1,943	—

	Average weekly receipts last year.	Total since Jan 1.	Total same date last year.
Cattle	3,141	171,648	165,322
Sheep	3,867	206,359	203,904
Hogs	316	10,626	17,124

PRICES—Both buyers and sellers, are agreed that the advance is equal to ¼c.@¾c. ℔ lb., and we alter our quotations accordingly:

	This Week.	Last Week.
Premium	—c.@ —c.	4¾c.@5¼c.
Extra	4¾c.@4¾c.	4¼c.@4¾c.
First quality	3¾c.@4¼c.	3¾c.@4 c.
Second quality	3¼c.@3¾c.	3¼c.@3¾c.
Third quality	2¾c.@3 c.	2¼c.@2¾c.

SHEEP.—The demand is good, both for this City and the East, and the receipts are fair. During the week prices have advanced 25c. ℔ 100 lbs. We quote as follows:

Sheep averaging 90@ 94 lbs.....4c. ℔ lb.
Sheep averaging 95@100 lbs.....4¼c. ℔ lb.
Sheep averaging 105@112 lbs.....4½c. ℔ lb.

HOGS—There is a falling off in the receipts as compared with the past few weeks, but still the supply is somewhat greater than the demand. Since last Monday morning the Central Railroad has delivered at East Albany about 29,000 and at West Albany about 3,000. Nearly all brought to the latter depot were consigned to Albany packers. The sales at East Albany for the week were some 8,000 at prices ranging from 3½c.@3¾c., and a few extra choice commanded 4c. ℔ lb. This is an extreme figure, but with a continuance of the present sharp, cold weather, holders have good cause to hope for a slight advance. The market to-day is quite firm.

DRESSED HOGS—Comparatively few are arriving by railroad, although the receipts from that source have been on the increase during the past few days. We hear of moderate sales at the depôt and from the slaughter houses in the vicinity, at $4 75@$4 80 ℔ 100 lbs., for lots averaging from 230 to 300 lbs., and $4 63 for pigs.

MILCH COWS—The inquiry is extremely limited, and prices remain unchanged.

Movements of European Steamers.

FROM EUROPE.

St. Andrew	Glasgow	New-York	Dec. 7
Arago	Southampton	New-York	Dec. 11
Nova Scotian	Liverpool	Portland	Dec. 12
Niagara	Liverpool	Boston	Dec. 14
Hammonia	Southampton	New-York	Dec. 18
John Bell	Glasgow	New-York	Dec. 21
Asia	Liverpool	New-York	Dec. 21
Bremen	Southampton	New-York	Dec. 25
Canada	Liverpool	Boston	Dec. 28
Borussia	Southampton	New-York	Jan. 1

FROM AMERICA.

Europa	Boston	Liverpool	Dec. 25
Bohemian	Portland	Liverpool	Dec. 29
City of Washington	New-York	Liverpool	Dec. 28
America	New-York	Liverpool	Jan. 1
Arago	New-York	Southampton	Jan. 4
Nova Scotian	Portland	Liverpool	Jan. 4
St. Andrew	New-York	Glasgow	Jan. 7
Niagara	Boston	Liverpool	Jan. 8
Asia	New-York	Liverpool	Jan. 15
John Bell	New-York	Glasgow	Jan. 21

Departure of European Mails.

Mails for Europe will close at the New-York Post-office on Saturday, at 10½ A. M.

Mails Close at the Post-office.

North Mails close at.....5 A. M. and 3:30 P. M.
South Mails close at.....5 A. M. and 4:30 and 10 P. M.
Western Mails (*via* Erie Railroad).5 A. M. and 3:30 P. M.
Eastern Mails close at.....6 A. M., 2 P. M. and 6:30 P. M.

Mails for California, Oregon, Washington and the Sandwich Islands close daily at the New-York Post-office at 5½ A. M. and 3½ P. M.

On Sunday all Mails close at 1:30 P. M.

PERSONAL.

ALL PERSONS DESIROUS OF GETTING rid of decayed teeth and roots, positively without pain or danger, can do so under the new chemically purified chloroform, as administered daily by DR. WAITE & SON, No. 5 Bond-st. Beautiful full sets inserted from $10 to $25. Gold fillings from $1 to $3; bone and amalgam, 50 cents. Refer to Drs. Pond, Gilchrist, Worster, Webb, and Rev. Drs. Ferris and Burchard.

STATIONERY.

BOWNE & CO.,

STATIONERS, PAPER DEALERS,

ACCOUNT BOOK MANUFACTURERS,

AND PRINTERS,

No. 149 Broadway, corner Liberty-st.,

Are prepared to furnish everything in their line of the best quality, and on reasonable terms.

Merchants, officers of banks, railroad and insurance companies, will find it to their interest to call before purchasing.

Our location will be found convenient to merchants who have moved up town, and to out-of-town dealers stopping at the hotels.

THE BEST AND CHEAPEST INK.

AMERICAN UNION INK, jet black, flows freely, and does not corrode. Sold at No. 5 Ludlow-st., and at the stationers generally. JESSE G. KEYS.

DIARIES FOR 1862—ALL SIZES AND styles, for sale by the publishers,
FRANCIS & LOUTREL, No. 45 Maiden-lane.

SLOTE & JANES,
Stationers, Printers and Blank Book Manufacturers, No. 83 Fulton-st. Orders respectfully solicited.

CHOICE CARTES DE VISITE
OF
WHITTIER'S BAREFOOT BOY.
Photographed by Black from the beautiful painting of Swain. Also, the companion, by the same artist, of
THE LITTLE MATCH GIRL.
Price each 25 cents.
Sent by mail by J. E. TILTON & CO., Boston.
Send for a list of select cards.

DRY GOODS.

THE EXTRAORDINARY OPPORTUNITY TO BUY
ELEGANT FANCY ARTICLES,
AT WHOLESALE PRICES,
IS DRAWING TO A CLOSE
The Importing House of
NORTH, SHERMAN & CO.,
Are still opening New Articles
FOR THE HOLIDAYS, AT
NO. 449 BROADWAY.
Fans, Work-boxes and Writing Desks.
Jewelry, Perfumery, Stationery, Dolls, &c.

FASHIONABLE CLOAKS.
At reduced prices.
FRENCH BEAVER CLOAKS,
HEAVY ESQUIMAUX BEAVER CLOAKS,
MOSCOW BEAVER CLOAKS AND WRAPPERS
ELEGANT LYONS VELVET CLOAKS,
PLUSH AND LIONSKIN CLOAKS, in a great variety.
All new styles, at retail, at reduced prices.
E. S. MILLS & CO.,
No. 413 Broadway, near Canal-st.

310 CANAL-STREET. 310
FINE MINK FURS, COLLARS AND MUFFS, CHOICE ROYAL ERMINE.
A fine selection of dark-colored Mink at reasonable prices,
For Holiday Presents.
J. J. BENSON,
Canal-st., exactly opposite Mercer.

NO. 759 BROADWAY.
PRESENTS FOR ALL SEASONS.
And the most agreeable favors for ladies are
TUCKER'S
BRIDAL SETS AND VEILS,
Commencing at $5.
Flowers, for decorative purposes, 12 cents per bunch.

LADIES' ENGLISH SKATING JACKETS.
ALSO,
A LARGE WHOLESALE STOCK
OF LADIES' CLOTH,
BEAVER AND
SEAL-SKIN CLOAKS,
WILL BE OPENED AT RETAIL,
MUCH LESS THAN WHOLESALE PRICES,
DURING THE HOLIDAYS,
At
No. 447 Broadway.

AT MACY'S.
EMBROIDERED LACE CURTAINS,
EMBROIDERED LACE DRAPERIES, by the yard,
NOTTINGHAM LACE CURTAINS,
NOTTINGHAM LACE DRAPERIES, by the yard,
LACE TIDIES, &c.
From the CASH AUCTIONS of LAST WEEK, at VERY LOW PRICES.
R. H. MACY,
Nos. 204 and 206 6th-av., two doors below 14th-st.

R. H. MACY,
SELLS LADIES' DOLLAR KID GLOVES,
All colors and sizes, for 63 cents; free by mail, 69 cts.
Nos. 204 and 206 6th-av.
No connection with any other store in the City.

ZEPHYR WORSTED, BEST QUALITY, from 12½c.; canvas needles, &c., &c.; also slipper-patterns and worsted goods, cheap, for holiday-presents; a great variety of fancy goods, hair-nets, portmonnaies, combs and brushes, at ELGER'S, No. 260 and 262 Broadway, New-York. N. B. Alexandre's gloves.

HOLIDAY PRESENTS.
RICH, ELEGANT AND USEFUL
HOLIDAY PRESENTS.
THE LARGEST STOCK,
THE MOST BEAUTIFUL STYLES AND PATTERNS
of
GOLD AND SILVER PENCIL AND
PEN CASES
In the market, is to be found at
A. MORTON'S,
No. 25 Maiden-lane.
Prices from 75 cents to $25.
These can be put up and sent safely by mail to the Patriots in the Army and Navy, to Friends in any part of the country, and even *some* parts of South Carolina.

WALKING CANES.
USEFUL AND ELEGANT HOLIDAY PRESENTS.
Gold, Silver and Ivory Mounted
WALKING CANES
Of every description and price, from
25 cents to $40.
THE LARGEST, CHEAPEST
AND
BEST ASSORTMENT
In the City, can be found at
A. COX'S SON'S,
No. 25 Maiden-lane.

FOR HOLIDAY PRESENTS.
BECKER'S PATENT REVOLVING STEREOSCOPES are very appropriate on account of their elegant appearance, and being the only make that shows every style of those pictures correct without handling. They hold from two to twelve, and even fifty dozen pictures. In different patterns of rosewood and black walnut. For sale at our first stereoscopic depôts and opticians.
Manufactory, No 411 Broadway.

ELEGANT HOLIDAY PRESENT.—"LE Bouquet Imperial," the perfume Princess Clotilde called "delightful," and of which Prince Napoleon ordered $50 worth to be sent to the Palais Royal, Paris, sold by the manufacturer, GEO. REYNOLDS, No. 260 Court-st., Brooklyn, and by druggists and perfumers generally, at 50 cents per bottle.

INSTRUCTION.

FINANCIAL.

DIVIDEND NOTICE.

OFFICE

GREAT WESTERN

MARINE

INSURANCE COMPANY,

Great Western Buildings, Nos. 31 and 33 Pine-st.,

NEW-YORK.

THE USUAL SEMI-ANNUAL INTEREST DIVIDEND of 3½ per cent. on the $1,000,000 Cash Capital Stock of this Company, will be paid at this office, on and after Jan. 2, 1862. Transfer books will be closed from on and after the 20th inst.

DOUGLAS ROBINSON, Secretary.

UNION DIME SAVINGS BANK,

No. 489 CANAL, CORNER OF VARICK-ST.

Open daily from 10 A. M. to 2, and from 5 to 7 P. M. 6 per cent. interest allowed on all sums of $500 and under, and 5 per cent. on larger amounts.

THIS BANK HAS OPENED 7,142 ACCOUNTS, AND RECEIVED ON DEPOSIT $637,373 46 IN THE PAST 30 MONTHS.

E. V. HAUGHWOUT, President.
GARDNER S. CHAPIN, Secretary.

THIRD-AVENUE SAVINGS BANK,

Corner 3d-av. and 25th-st.

CHARTERED 1854.

Six per Cent. interest allowed on all sums from $1 to $1,000.

DEPOSITS WILL DRAW INTEREST FROM JAN. 1.

Bank open daily from 10 to 3, also on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday evenings, from 6 to 8 o'clock.

SPENCER K. GREEN, President.
STEPHEN S. CHILDS, Secretary.

BROWN BROTHERS & CO.,

NO. 59 WALL-ST.,

ISSUE COMMERCIAL AND TRAVELERS' CREDITS FOR USE IN THIS COUNTRY AND ABROAD

CONTRACTORS' BILLS

For Army and Navy supplies collected cheaply and expeditiously, or purchased on favorable terms, by

LIVERMORE, CLEWS & MASON,
Nos. 41 and 43 Wall-st., New-York

OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD COMPANY—NEW-YORK, Dec. 5, 1861.—At a meeting of the Board of Directors of the ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD COMPANY, held at their Office in New-York this day, it was

Resolved, That an assessment of FIVE DOLLARS per share upon the Scrip Shares of the Capital Stock of the Company, be and the same is hereby called payable on the twenty-first day of January, 1862; and that the same be payable on the Stock registered in the City of New-York at the Office of the Company in that City; and on the Stock registered in London, at the Office of Messrs. Rosser Barrow & Co., London; and that parties desiring to pay their assessment in London, may pay the same at a rate of exchange sufficient to produce five dollars per share to the Company in the City of New-York.

Resolved, That the transfer books be closed on the afternoon of the 16th January next, and reopened on the 20th day of the same month; and that no transfer be permitted on or after that day of shares upon which the foregoing assessment shall not have been paid.

THOMAS E. WALKER, Treasurer.

The eighty-dollar certificates to be returned on payment of the above.

NOTICE.—THE BANK OF MONTREAL HAVING established an agency at Chicago, is prepared to do a general banking business, and, in connection therewith will attend to the collection of commercial paper in all accessible points throughout the West. Collections in interior points will be at the risk of owners, care being used in selecting the most reliable medium.

CHICAGO, Oct. 16, 1861. E. W. WILLARD, Agent.

Referring to the above, we are prepared to draw, purchase and collect upon Chicago on favorable terms, and to purchase and collect upon the Canadas, and issue drafts and credits upon the various branches of the Bank of Montreal and the Union Bank of London.

RICHARD BELL and A. OGILVIE,
No. 32 Pine-st.,
Agents for the Bank of Montreal, New-York.

CLEVELAND, COLUMBUS AND CINCINNATI RAILROAD COMPANY, CLEVELAND, Dec. 16, 1861.—THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE STOCKholders of this Company will be held at the Office of the Company, Cleveland, Ohio, on WEDNESDAY, January 8, 1862, for the election of eleven Directors, and for the transaction of important business relating to the purchase of that part of the Springfield, Mount Vernon and Pittsburgh Railroad lying between Delaware, Ohio, and Springfield, Ohio, and other business. The transfer books will be closed on the 27th inst., and remain closed until the 8th January next. By order of the Board of Directors.

GEORGE H. RUSSELL, Secretary.

FIFTY-FIFTH DIVIDEND—BROOKLYN FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.—At a meeting of the Board of Directors, held at their office, No. 16 Merchants' Exchange, New-York, on Tuesday, Dec. 10, 1861, it was—

Resolved, That the usual Dividend of Ten (10) per cent. be paid upon the capital stock of the Company, on and after the 2d day of January next, out of the profits for the last six months, leaving a balance of said earnings of 3¾ per cent., which is added to the surplus fund.

By order,
WM. F. LEGGETT, Secretary.

OFFICE OF THE HAMILTON FIRE INSURANCE CO., No. 1 Wall-st., New-York, Dec. 18, 1861.—THE STOCKHOLDERS ARE HEREBY notified that a Semi-Annual Dividend of Four (4) Per Cent. has been declared, and will be payable on and after the first Monday in January next.

An election of Directors for the ensuing year will also be held on the same day. Polls open from 12 M. to 2 P. M.

This Company continues to insure, as usual, on the most reasonable terms.

J. C. WINANS, Secretary.

OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD CO., New-York, Oct. 28, 1861.—HOLDERS OF THE STOCK OF THIS Company, as registered upon the books of the company at the close of business on the 15th day of January, 1862, will be entitled to Canceled Bonds Scrip for five dollars upon each share of stock held by them deliverable on or after the 1st day of February next; and parties holding certificates to be notified to have the same registered in their own names on or before the said 15th day of January.

THOMAS E. WALKER, Treasurer.

WESTERN VERMONT RAILROAD.—PURsuant to the order of the Court of Chancery of the State of Vermont, a Dividend of Three and One-Half (3½) per cent. on the principal of the First Mortgage Bonds upon said Railroad, will be said at the Mechanics' Bank in the City of New-York, on and after the 1st day of January, 1862, to the order of such persons as shall have proved their bonds.

SHEPERD KNAPP, } Trustees.
GEORGE BRIGGS, }

IRVING SAVINGS INSTITUTION—NO. 96 WARREN-ST.—Interest allowed at the rate of 6 per cent. on sums from $1 to $500, and 5 per cent. on sums over that amount. Open daily, from 10 A. M. to 2 P. M. Also on Monday, Thursday and Saturday evenings, from 4 to 7 P. M.

JOHN CASTREE, President.
WILLIAM M. PULLIS, } Vice-Presidents.
SYLVANUS S. WARD, }
VANDERBILT L. BUXTON, Secretary.

MARINERS' SAVINGS BANK, NO. 1 33d-av., opposite the Cooper Institute. Deposits made on or before the 1st of January will bear interest from that date.

BANK OPEN DAILY from 9 to 2 P. M. and on MONDAY, WEDNESDAY and SATURDAY EVENINGS from 5 to 8 o'clock. THOS. B. STILLMAN, President.
ISAAC T. SMITH, Secretary.

BANK OF NEW-YORK.—THE BOARD OF Directors of the Bank of New-York have this day declared a Dividend of Three per Cent. on the capital stock of the Bank, for the current six months, payable to the stockholders on and after the 2d day of January next. The books of transfer will be closed from this date to the 6th day of January.

W. B. MEEKER, Cashier.
DEC. 17, 1861.

MECHANICS' AND TRADERS' BANK, No 153 BOWERY, NEW-YORK, Dec. 25, 1861.—AN ELECTION FOR DIRECTORS OF this institution, for the ensuing year, and for three Inspectors for the next ensuing election, will be held at the Banking house, on WEDNESDAY, Jan. 8, 1862. Po ll will be open from 2 to 3 o'clock P. M.

GEO. W. YOUK, Cashier.

BROADWAY BANK, NEW-YORK, Dec. 21, 1861.—TWENTY-FOURTH DIVIDEND.—A SEMIannual dividend of (5) Five per Cent., on the Capital Stock of this Bank, from the earnings of the current six months, will be paid on and after the 2d day of January next, 1862. The transfer books will remain closed until that date. By order.

J. L. EVERITT, Cashier.

ATLANTIC SAVINGS BANK, CHATHAM-SQUARE—Receives deposits from 25 cents to $5,000. Six per cent. interest allowed on sums of $500 and under. This Bank has received during the past year $46,570 67 more than it has paid out.

M. D. VAN PELT, President.
JOSEPH P. COOPER, Secretary.

MANUFACTURERS' AND MERCHANTS' BANK, No. 561 and 563 Broadway, NEW-YORK, Dec. 20, 1861.—THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THIS Bank have declared a dividend of three (3) per cent., payable on and after the 2d day of January next, until which date the transfer books will be closed.

A. MASTERTON, Cashier.

CONTINENTAL BANK, NEW-YORK, Dec. 21, 1861.—THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE Continental Bank have this day declared a dividend of Three Per Cent., payable on and after MONDAY, Jan. 6, 1862. The transfer books will be closed from Dec. 26 to Jan. 6, inclusive.

E. W. TALMAN, Assistant Cashier.

NOTICE.—HOLDERS OF MILWAUKEE CITY Bonds, issued to the Milwaukee and Mississippi Railroad Company, may exchange the same for Second Preferred Stock of the Milwaukee and Prairie du Chien Railway Company, by applying to W. SCHALL & CO., Nos. 58 and 60 Exchange-place.

COLLECTIONS IN WASHINGTON, D. C.—Claims on any of the Departments, Quartermasters' accounts, and Notes payable in Washington, D. C., collected with promptness and on reasonable terms by

RIGGS & CO., No. 56 Wall-st.

APPROVED BILLS FOR SUPPLIES FURNished the War and Navy Departments cashed by

JOHN B. MURRAY,
No. 39 Nassau-st., opposite the Post-office.

THE COUPONS OF THE JACKSON County (Ohio) Bonds, due Jan. 1, 1862, will be paid at the Ocean Bank after that date.

CHAS. PALMER, Assistant Cashier.

FINANCIAL.

GOVERNMENT CLAIMS ADJUSTED.

Claims upon the War and Navy Departments; the Treasury; Pension, Land and Census Bureaus; and the accounts of Army, Navy and Mail Contractors adjusted in person by our resident agent in Washington,

Hon. HORATIO KING,
late Postmaster-General of the United States.

JOHN B. MURRAY, Army and Navy Banker,
No. 39 Nassau-st., opposite the Post-office.

Claims are made up and forwarded to Washington daily.

OFFICE OF THE PANAMA RAILROAD COMPANY, } NO. 52 WALL-ST. } NEW-YORK, Dec. 20, 1861.

NINETEENTH DIVIDEND.—THE BOARD OF Directors of this Company have this day declared a Dividend of Six per Cent. out of the earnings of the Road, for the six months ending 31st inst., payable to stockholders or their legal representatives on and after the 2d of January next. The transfer books will be closed from this day until the morning of Monday, the 6th of January.

HENRY SMITH, Treasurer.

METROPOLITAN BANK, NO. 108 BROADWAY.—NEW-YORK, Dec. 20, 1861.—DIVIDEND.—The Directors of the Metropolitan Bank have this day declared a Semi-annual Dividend of 3 (three) Per Cent., payable on the first Monday of January next (6th proximo.)

The Transfer Books will remain closed until the 8th January prox.

GEO. I SENEY, Cashier.

ROSEHILL SAVINGS BANK, CORNER of 14th-st. and 8th-av., open daily from 1 to 5 P. M. Wednesdays and Saturdays until 7 P. M. Six per cent. interest on all sums of $500 and under. Interest allowed from the 1st of January. THOS. CHRISTY, President.
RICH. H. BULL, Secretary.

SEVENTH WARD BANK.—NEW-YORK, DEC. 24, 1861.—FIFTY-FOURTH DIVIDEND.—The President and Directors have this day declared a dividend of Five (5) Per Cent., payable to the stockholders on and after the 2d day of January, 1862. By order of the Board,

A. S. FRASER, Cashier.

INCOME BONDS BUFFALO STATE LINE RAILROAD COMPANY cashed by H. T. MORGAN & CO., William-st., at 95 cents.

PROPOSALS.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, OFFICE LIGHT-HOUSE BOARD, Dec. 6, 1861.

SEALED PROPOSALS WILL BE RECEIVED at this office until 1 o'clock P. M. on MONDAY, the 6th day of January, 1862, for supplying the Light-house Establishment with seventy thousand gallons of the best quality, pure, Winter-strained Sperm Oil, to be divided into three lots, and to be delivered at the times undermentioned, alongside the Government supply-vessels, or at the warehouse or other place of deposit, to be designated by the inspecting Officer or other authorized agent of the Light-house Board, in strong, tight, well-made casks, suitable for shipping, to a good order of an average capacity, each of from eighty to one hundred gallons.

Either lot or all of them may be delivered at New-York, New-London, Sag Harbor, Boston, New-Bedford, Edgartown, or Nantucket, at the option of the bidders. The place of delivery must be distinctly stated in the bids, and will be embraced in the contracts.

The three lots will de delivered as follows, viz:

Lot No. 1, (23,000) twenty-three thousand gallons on the 1st day of April, 1862, or as soon thereafter as the proper tests and gauging can be completed.

Lot No. 2, (32,000) thirty-two thousand gallons on the 1st day of June, 1862, or as soon thereafter as the proper tests and gauging can be completed.

Lot No. 3, (15,000) fifteen thousand gallons on the 1st day of October, 1862, or as soon thereafter as the proper tests and gauging can be completed.

No part of the oil proposed for and to be embraced in the contracts under this advertisement will be accepted, received, or paid for, until it shall have been proved to the entire satisfaction of the person or persons charged with its examination, test, and inspection, to be the best quality pure Winter strained or bagged sperm oil, free from mixture with other or inferior oils and adulterations, and that it will remain in a sufficiently fluid state for free burning in lamps at a temperature of 32° or lower of Fahrenheit's standard thermometer.

The usual means for determining the character and quality of the oil will be employed, viz: for specific gravity, by burning to determine the length of time the oil will burn in untrimmed capillary or jacket lamps, the amount of residuum in each lamp after it burns out, and, if necessary, any proper tests to arrive at correct conclusions that may be deemed necessary.

The casks must be gauged, under the direction and personal supervision of the inspecting officer, by a custom-house or other legally authorized and sworn gauger, according to the United States standard, and must be marked and accepted before they are removed from the cellar or warehouse of the contractor.

Proposals will be received and considered for each lot separately, or for all of them at the option of the bidder; but no bid will be considered for a less quantity than that specified as one lot, to be delivered at one time and place. Each bid must state explicitly the rate per gallon, in writing, the number of lot or lots bid for, and the time and place of delivery, conforming to this advertisement.

Bids submitted by different members of the same firm or copartnership will not be considered.

The Light-house Board, under the authority of the Department, reserves the right to reject any bid, although it may be the lowest, for other considerations than the price.

No bid will be considered for any other kind or description of oil than that specifically called for in this advertisement.

A bond, with security to the satisfaction of the Department, in a penalty equal to one-fifth of the amount of each contract made under these proposals, will be required of each contractor, conditioned for the faithful performance of the contract, to be executed within ten days after the acceptance of the bid.

Every offer must be accompanied by a written guarantee, signed by one or more responsible persons, and known to the Department as such, or certified by a United States District Judge, Attorney, Navy Agent, or Collector of the Customs, to the effect that, if the bid or bids be accepted, the bidder or bidders will duly execute a contract in good faith, according to the provisions and terms of this advertisement, within ten days after acceptance; and that in case the said party or parties offering shall fail to enter into the contract as aforesaid, he or they guarantee to make good the difference between the offer of the said party or parties and the next lowest bidder. All bids must be sealed and indorsed "Proposals for oil for light-houses," and then placed in another envelope, and directed, prepaid, to the Secretary of the Light-house Board, Washington City.

All bids will be opened, publicly, at the hour and on the day specified.

Payments will be made for the several lots of oil within thirty days after they shall have been received by the United States.

By order of the Light-house Board.

THORNTON A. JENKINS, Secretary.

FORM OF OFFER.

I, (or we,) ———, of ——, State of ———, hereby offer and agree to furnish and deliver at ———, agreeably to the provisions, and in conformity to the terms, of the advertisement of the ———, from the office of the Lighthouse Board. Should ——— offer or bid be accepted, ——— request to be informed at ———, and that the contract may be forwarded to ———, for signature and certificate. (Signature.)

(Place.)
(Date.)

FORM OF GUARANTEE.

We, the undersigned, residents of ———, in the State of ———, hereby jointly and severally covenant with the United States, and guaranty that in case the foregoing ———, of ———, be accepted, ——— will, within ten days after the acceptance of said ——— execute a contract for the same, with good and sufficient sureties, to deliver the ——— of oil proposed, in conformity to the terms of the advertisement hereto appended, under which it was made. And in case the said ——— shall fail to enter into a contract as aforesaid, we guaranty to make good the difference between the offer of the said ——— and the next lowest bidder.

Witness:

} Sureties.

(Place.)
(Date.)

I hereby certify, that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the above named guarantors are good and sufficient. (Signature.)

(Place.)
(Date.)

PUBLIC NOTICES.

MAYOR'S OFFICE—NEW-YORK, DEC. 20, 1861.—$500 REWARD.—Whereas BERNARD LEVY, who was doing business as a broker at No. 148 Canal-st., in the City of New-York, was found lying dead on the floor of his office, at the above named place, with his throat cut, on the morning of the 14th instant, and whereas it is believed that he was murdered,

Now, therefore, I, Fernando Wood, Mayor of the City of New-York, do, by virtue of authority vested in me, offer a reward of Five Hundred Dollars for the apprehension and conviction of the person or persons who committed the murder of said Levy. Said reward to be paid on the certificate of the District-Attorney, or the Judge before whom the conviction was had, that the claimants are entitled to said reward; but all claims not presented to the Mayor within twenty days after such conviction, will be disregarded.

FERNANDO WOOD, Mayor.

OFFICE OF RECEIVER OF TAXES, Dec. 19, 1861.—NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO ALL parties in arrears for taxes of the current year, that the same must be paid before the 1st day of January next.

All taxes remaining unpaid on that day will be subject to a penalty at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum from the 30th of September last.

JAMES KELLY, Receiver.

LEGAL NOTICES.

IN PURSUANCE OF AN ORDER OF THE Surrogate of the County of New-York, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against SOLOMON WARRINER, late of the City of New-York, deceased, to present the same with vouchers thereof to the subscribers at the office of S. L. Parsons, No. 64 Wall-st., in the City of New-York, on or before the 13th day of May next.—Dated, New-York, November 6, 1861.

HARRIET J. WARRINER, Administratrix.
S. L. PARSONS, Administrator.
n7-law6mTh*

IN PURSUANCE OF AN ORDER OF THE Surrogate of the County of New-York, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against MARY DONOHOE, late of the City of New-York deceased, to present the same, with vouchers thereof, to the subscriber, at his office, No. 321 7th-av., in the City of New-York, on or before the 20th day of December next.—Dated New-York, May 29, 1861.

WILLIAM HUGHES, Administrator.
my29-law6mTh*

PRINTING MATERIALS.

NEW-YORK TYPE FOUNDRY,
(ESTABLISHED, 1823,)
NO. 29 SPRUCE-STREET.

PRINTERS ARE INVITED TO CALL ON the subscriber, where they can be supplied with EVERY STYLE OF PRINTING TYPES, made from UNRIVALED HARD METAL, and finished in the most accurate manner, with Presses and every article they require, at the LOWEST PRICE for cash or approved paper. ELECTROTYPING and STEREOTYPING; Second-hand Presses and materials bought and sold. Type copperfaced to order by the Newton Company. Old type taken in exchange for new at 10 cents per pound.

PETER C. CORTELYOU.

SKATES.

50,000 PAIRS SKATES AT A. & E. ELBERS, No. 15 Platt-st., manufacturers depôt. 12,000 pairs Brooklyn Patent Skates, 15 Platt-st.

MEDICAL.

MANHOOD RESTORED! IGNORANCE EXPOSED! PALLIATIVES UNMASKED!

HIGHLY IMPORTANT TO BOTH SEXES, married or single, in health or disease. DR. LAMONT'S Paris, London and New-York Medical Adviser and Marriage Guide. (66th edition, 400 pages, 126 Anatomical Illustrations,) upon Mental and Nervous Debility, Loss of Memory, Incapacity, Urinary Deposits, Involuntary Loss of Semen, nights, with the urine, or at stool; Impotency, Affections of the Bladder and Kidneys, Strictures, Gleet, Gonorrhœa, Syphilis, primary and constitutional, &c.

Among its contents is the anatomy of the sexual organs of the male and female—all their diseases and weaknesses; latest discoveries in reproduction; European hospital practice; quacks, advertisers, their recipes and specifics; the author's unequaled Paris and London treatment, &c.

All who would avoid unsuccessful and barbarous treatment with Mercury, Copaiba, Injections, Cauterizations, Quack Specifics, Antidotes, Instruments, &c., should purchase this valuable work. Sold, at RICHARDSON, No. 1 Vesey-st.; ROSS & TOUSEY, No. 121 Nassau-st.; H. DEXTER & CO., No. 113 Nassau-st., New-York; and DE WITT, No. 13 Frankfort-st.; or consult the Doctor, at No. 647 Broadway, (up stairs,) New-York, from 9 A. M. to 9 P. M.

"In concur with other papers in recommending Dr. LARMONT and his work."—*Courier des Etat Unis, German Die Reform, Dispatch, Staats Zeitung, National Democrat, Atlas, Medical Review, &c.*

NERVOUS AND SPECIAL DISEASES, MARRIAGE, &c.

By C. D. HAMMOND, M. D., Ex-Professor of Special Pathology in the Syracuse Medical College, New-York. Price $1. GODFREY, Bookseller, No. 631 Broadway, or of the author, at No. 688 Broadway.

TRIESMAR.—PROTECTED BY ROYAL LETters patent of England, and secured by the seals of the Ecole de Pharmacie de Paris and the Imperial College of Medicine, Vienna. TRIESMAR No. 1 is the effectual remedy for RELAXATION, SPERMATORRHŒA and EXHAUSTION OF THE SYSTEM. TRIESMAR No. 2 completely and entirely eradicates all traces of those disorders for which Copaiva and Cubebs have generally been thought an antidote, to the ruin of the health of a vast portion of the population. TRIESMAR No. 3 is the great and sure remedy of the civilized world for all impurities of the system, as well as secondary symptoms; obviating the destructive use of Mercury, as well as other deleterious ingredients, and which all the Sarsaparilla in the world cannot remove. They are in the form of a lozenge, and may lie on the toilet table without their use being suspected. Sold in tin cases at $3 each, or four $3 cases in one for $9, and in $27 cases, thus saving $9, as administered by Valpeau, Lallemand, Roux, &c., &c. Wholesale and retail by Dr. H. A. BARROW, No. 194 Bleecker-st., (four doors from Hudson-st.,) New-York. Immediately on receipt of remittance, forwarded to any part of the world. Attendance and consultation from 11 to 2, and from 4 till 8 in the evening, and on Sunday till 11. Triesmar can also be obtained, by authority of Dr. Barrow, from

WELLS & CO., No. 115 Franklin-st., New-York,
And J. WORTHINGTON, No. 206 Fulton-st., Brooklyn.

"NEW MEDICAL BOOK.—DR. BOSTWICK'S Work on Seminal Diseases, Hints Before and After Marriage, Nervous Debility, Impotency and Kindred Affections, &c., &c., is before us, and we do not hesitate to say it is without exception the most truthful and useful work of the kind ever published, and it will be hailed by the profession as well as the world as a great benefactor to mankind. Quackery is here exposed and the truth told. It should be in every family, and in the hands of every young man and woman in the land."—*Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.*

Mailed by Richardson, No. 1 Vesey-st.; Godfrey's, No. 821 Broadway; and by Dr. B. at his office, No. 38 East 13th-st., six doors west of Broadway, where he will continue the practice of medicine and surgery. Price $1. All interviews and communications strictly confidential.

SURE CURE.—DR. POWERS, SUCCESSFULLY consulted with Dr. WARD, No. 12 Laight-st. He gives advice free, and guarantees an immediate cure or no pay. Glorious triumph of medicine. Dr. POWERS' sure specific remedies for syphilitic, mercurial and all other delicate diseases; for certainty unapproached, and for the entire eradication of disease, nothing besides can positively be relied upon; try them and be convinced. Dr. POWERS' essence of Life restores the vigor of youth in four weeks. This marvelous agent restores manhood to the most shattered constitutions. Office No. 12 Laight-st. Dr. POWERS' French Preventive, the greatest invention of the age. Those who have used them are never without them. Price, $3 per dozen; mailed free on receipt of the price. Address Dr. POWERS, No. 12 Laight-st.

DR. COBBETT, MEMBER OF THE N. Y. University, (Medical College,) and Royal College of Surgeons, London, has removed from No. 19 Duane-st., to his present very convenient suite of rooms at No. 28 Centre-st., between Chambers and Reade sts., with a private entrance at No. 2 City Hall-place, where he can be consulted with the most honorable confidence on all diseases affecting the urinary organs; thirty years in his present specialty, (three of which have been at the Hospitals of this City,) enable him to guarantee a cure in every case undertaken, or make no charge. Strictures of the urethra, impotency, seminal weakness, &c., treated on the most scientific principles. N. B.—As a proof of Dr. C.'s qualifications, he would call special attention to his Diplomas, which can be seen in his office.

DR. COOPER, NO. 14 DUANE-ST, MAY BE confidently consulted on all diseases of a private nature. A practice of 30 years, devoted to the treatment and cure of Syphilitic, Mercurial, and diseases of a delicate nature, enables Dr. C. to make speedy and permanent cures, no matter of how long standing the case may be. Strictures of the urethra and seminal weakness, brought on by a secret habit, effectually cured. The victims of misplaced confidence, who have been misled by quack advertisements, can call on Dr. C. with the certainty of being radically cured. N. B.—Dr. C. is a qualified physician and surgeon, and a member of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New-York. Office hours from 8 A. M. to 9 P. M.

IMPORTANT TO THE MARRIED AND THOSE ABOUT TO BE MARRIED.—Dr. A. M. MAURICEAU, Professor of Diseases of Women, has just published the 160th edition of the valuable book, entitled "THE MARRIED WOMAN'S PRIVATE MEDICAL COMPANION," strictly intended for those whose health or circumstances forbid a too rapid increase of family. Price $1. Sold at his office, No. 129 Liberty-st., New-York; or can be sent by mail free of postage, to any part of the United States and Canada, by inclosing $1, and addressing Box No. 1,224 New-York City. For sale by RICHARDSON, at No. 1 Vesey-st., (Astor House,) and No. 18 Ann-st.

A PHYSIOLOGICAL VIEW OF MARRIAGE—Containing nearly 300 pages and 150 fine plates and engravings of the anatomy of the sexual organs in a state of health and disease; with a treatise on self-abuse, its deplorable consequences upon the mind and body, with the author's plan of treatment—the only rational and successful mode of cure, as shown by the report of cases treated. A truthful adviser to the married and those contemplating marriage, who entertain doubts of their physical condition. Sent free of postage to any address, on receipt of 25 cents in specie or postage-stamps, by addressing Dr. LA CROIX, Albany, N. Y.

EDWARD H. DIXON, M. D., EDITOR OF the Scalpel, and Operating and Consulting Surgeon, No. 42 5th-av. Office consultations on the more obscure diseases of the pelvic viscera. Rupture, piles, varicocele, and fistula, radically cured without the knife or ligature. Office hours from 8 to 9, 1 to 3, and 7 to 9 evenings. Consultation fee, $5.

HO, YOUNG MAN!—YOU CAN NEVER BE cured by medicine. What you need is information. Knowledge is power. Send a tract 1 (it will cost you for a dime, no stamps,) and learn how you may avoid ruin without a doctor. LA ROY SUNDERLAND, Boston, Mass.

SOMETHING FOR EVERY LADY.—DR. WARD'S Great Benefactor. The great periodical remedy, infallible for the immediate removal of monthly obstructions. Office No. 12 Laight-st., near Canal, where Dr. WARD can be consulted confidentially, day or evening.

PRIVATE CONSULTATION.—DR. HUNTER has, for thirty years, confined his attention to diseases of a certain class, in which he has treated no less than fifty thousand cases, without an instance of failure. His great remedy, HUNTER'S RED DROP, cures certain diseases when regular treatment and all other remedies fail; cures without dieting or restriction in the habits of the patient; cures without the disgusting and sickening effects of all other remedies; cures in new cases in less than six hours; cures without the dreadful consequent effects of mercury, but possesses the peculiarly valuable property of annihilating the rank and poisonous taint that the blood is sure to absorb, unless his remedy is used. This is what he claims for it, and what no other will accomplish, for in this respect has become well and widely known, that scientific men in every department of medical knowledge begin to appreciate it, for hardly a week passes that he is not consulted by druggists, chemists and physicians, in regard to some pitiful patient, who has exhausted the whole field of the faculty, and still the disease will appear. Its popularity is so great, that there is not a quack doctor in the City that has not attacked it; and when they find their lies are not so easily swallowed, they then pretend that they can make it. It is $1 a vial, and cannot be obtained genuine anywhere but at the old office, No. 3 Division-st. Book for 15 three cent stamps, 300 pages, 100 colored illustrations. The best work out.

FARMS.

FARMS FOR SALE IN DUTCHESS COUNTY.—A farm of 20½ acres, situated about half a mile east of Hart's Village, and 16 miles from Poughkeepsie, and 8 miles from the Harlem Railroad Depôt, at Dover Plains. The mail stage passes to and from Poughkeepsie daily. A good boarding and day school within about 1½ miles, and meetings of different persuasions within a short distance. The dwelling-house is nearly new and modern built, 26 feet front by 36 feet deep on the ground. The first floor consists of a hall, two good-sized parlors, with an extension room connected by sliding doors; a lodging-room, bath-room, and water closet. Second floor, four good-sized lodging rooms, with large garret above, a wing attached to the main building for dining-room and library, with two good lodging rooms, and store room above, with a private entrance. A large cellar under the whole. A kitchen, wash-room, and milk-room, with water constantly running into the wash-room, and to the barn-yard. A large barn, 36 by 54 feet; a young orchard just coming into bearing, of apples, pears, plums, and cherries. Also, grapes, currants, strawberries, Antwerp raspberries, Lawton blackberries, &c., with a great deal of shrubbery about the place.

Also, a farm of 20½ acres on the opposite side of the Turnpike. On the premises is a cottage and a tenant house, with a stable for two horses, and a large barn 30 by 60 feet. Will be sold separate or together. For terms, &c., apply to L. BARROW, on the premises.

FOR SALE, A NORTH RIVER FARM OF 30 ACRES—With fine views, abundance of choice fruit, good plain buildings; ½ mile from landing, and 30 miles from New-York. PRICE TO SUIT THE TIMES.

C. H. OLIVER, NO. 51 LIBERTY ST.

LOST AND FOUND.

LOST—A CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT FROM THE United States Trust Company of New-York, No. 2,473, dated March 17, 1858, to John C. Cheeseman, Cornelius V. S. Roosevelt and John A. Collier, Executors of Stephen B. Munn, for Ten Thousand Dollars, with interest at four per cent. from date. All persons interested are required to show cause, within six weeks, why a new certificate shall not issue in lieu of that lost.—Dec. 3, 1861.

JOHN C. CHEESEMAN,
CORNELIUS V. S. ROOSEVELT, } Executors.
JOHN A. COLLIER,

LOST.—ON CHRISTMAS EVE, A SMALL BLACK and TAN TERRIER: answers to the name of "Fan." The finder will be suitably rewarded, by returning the above to No. 50 East 30th-st., New-York.

AUCTION SALES.

ALBERT H. NICOLAY, Auctioneer.

REGULAR SALE OF STOCKS AND BONDS.

ALBERT H. NICOLAY
Will sell THIS DAY, (THURSDAY,) Dec. 26,
AT 12½ o'clock, at the
MERCHANTS' EXCHANGE.

A good variety of City, Insurance and Bank Stocks, Bonds and other Securities, suitable for investments. For full particulars, see *World, Commercial Advertiser* and *Evening Post*. Catalogues can be obtained at the office No. 52 William-st. Next regular sale on MONDAY, Dec. 30, at the MERCHANTS' EXCHANGE.

ALBERT H. NICOLAY, Auctioneer,
Real Estate and Stock Broker.

HENRY H. LEEDS, Auctioneer.

CLOSING SALE OF WINES.—HENRY H. LEEDS & CO. will sell at Auction, on FRIDAY, Dec. 27, at 11 o'clock, at salesroom No. 27 Nassau-st., closing sale (and positively the last this season) of first-class WINES, BRANDIES, CIGARS, ALES, &c., the stock of an insolvent importing and jobbing house, for many years in the Southern trade, all of which are guaranteed genuine, and according to sample and description, including pale and dark brandies, ports, sherries, Madeiras, rum, gin, whisky, &c., in casks, cases, bottles and demijohns. Also the balance of an invoice, in original cases, shipped (*via* Montreal) by the London and Peninsular Wine Company, (the oldest in London,) comprising Don Pedro Madeira, 1844; royal golden, 1849; superior brown, 1856, and extra pale sherry, 1847; superior old port, 1843; Mantell's old imperial brandy, 1848; Jamaica rum, 1848; old Holland gin, and English wild cherry brandy. Persons desiring a stock for private use can find nothing more desirable or reliable. Also remaining unsold, a few lots belonging to an English gentleman leaving the country, viz.: a few dozen V. O. P. sherry 1844; sercial Madeira; Antigua rum 1847. A few original packages of fine sherry of one arroboe each, direct from Cadiz. Invoiced for private use. A few demijohns very old pine-applerum; do. do. of very choice old competition sherry; an invoice of guaranteed Charles Heidseick champagne, quarts and pints; old Otard brandy in demijohn; Marocobrunner Hock 1846. Also, one unique octavo of Sazerac brandy, 1795, very choice and very rare. Also, the entire balance of fine Havana cigars remaining from sale of Dec. 20. We shall now offer the last opportunity to purchase from this fine invoice, viz.: Pureza de Mato, Cabanas, Dolce Far Niente, Flor Alburne, Alburne, Thos. D'as Don Quixotte, El Sol, Luna, Lena, Nereigas, Flor, Columbia, Britannica, Henry Clay, Punch, Seneca, consisting of Conchas, Regalias, Londres, Milles, Commune, Regalia, Britannica, Yarallas, Media Regalias, &c., in 10th boxes, and about 32,000 Pule Plantation cigars in barrels.

E. H. LUDLOW, Auctioneer.

ASSIGNEE'S SALE OF PROPERTY IN WESTCHESTER COUNTY.—E. LUDLOW & CO. will sell at auction, on FRIDAY, Jan. 3, 1862, at 12 o'clock, at the Merchants' Exchange, by order of Lorin Ingersoll, Assignee of A. Allendorph, the following property:

MORRISANIA.—The plot of ground, with the dwelling and the building thereon, situated on Franklin-av., between Spring-place and Franklin-av., being 171¼ feet front, and running through to Boston Road.

Also, the plot of ground on east side Fordham-av., 89 feet south of 8th-st., 75x200 feet.

Also, plot of ground on Cottage-place, west side, 254 feet north of 8th-st., 90x160 feet.

TREMONT.—The plot of ground in the village of Tremont, being part of lot No. 22, situated on Madison-av., and being 83 feet on said avenue, and 170 feet in depth.

Also, the plot of ground, with the old one story dwelling thereon, in the village of Tremont, being lot No. 24, having a front of 85 feet on Madison-av., and 212 feet on west from lane or road.

Also a plot of ground in village of Adamsville, on west side of Washington-av., containing about ½ of an acre.

Also, the furniture contained in the house on Franklin-av., subject to mortgage and interest.

Full particulars can be had at the office of the Auctioneers, No. 3 Pine-st.

BROWNE & NICHOLS, Auctioneers, No. 35 Nassau-st.

MORTGAGE SALE OF HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE—THURSDAY and FRIDAY, Dec. 26 and 27, each day at 10½ o'clock, at the large dwelling-house No. 17 Lafayette-place (comprising the contents of sixty rooms,) consisting of beds, bedding, carpets, curtains, bureaus, washstands, crockery, window-shades, gas-fixtures, stoves, dining-room furniture, rosewood and mahogany parlor furniture, velvet medallion carpet, satin damask curtains, rosewood piano-forte, by Hallet, Davis & Co., mirrors, cornices, &c.; oil-cloths and hall-furniture, crockery, chinaware, table-cutlery, table-linen, sheets, pillow-cases, quilts, pillows, blankets and hair-mattresses, kitchen and laundry furniture; also, large furnace and eighty tons of coal. Sale positive. By order of the mortgagee.

HENRY H. LEEDS, Auctioneer.

HENRY H. LEEDS & CO. WILL SELL at auction, on THURSDAY, Dec. 26, at 10 o'clock, in the gallery of the salesroom No. 23 Nassau-st., an elegant collection of oil-paintings, by a first-rate amateur, consisting of about 100 pictures, on various subjects, without frames, and about 50 with frames, consisting of American and foreign scenery sketches from nature, together with a large number of exquisite small oil-paintings of American scenes from nature, suitable for albums and holiday presents; also, will be found the works of W. M. Brown, Matins, Owen, Lambmans, Van Horn, and other artists of equal merit.

J. F. DAVIS, Auctioneer.

850 CASES BOOTS, SHOES AND BROgans to be sold at auction, THURSDAY, Dec. 26, at 10½ o'clock, at store of J. S. Leverett & Co., No. 16 Cortlandt-st., comprising a large assortment of Mens', boys' and youths' boots. Also, womens', misses' and children's fine and heavy work, suitable for city or country trade.

J. H. BURLEY, Auctioneer.

WILL SELL, THIS DAY, AT 2 O'CLOCK, at No. 444 Canal-st., bureaus, bedsteads, chairs, tables, sofas, sofa beds, mirrors, hair and other mattresses, feather beds, comforters, blankets, Brussels, 3-ply and other carpets, oil-cloths, jewel

FROM PORT ROYAL AND TYBEE.

Arrival of the Steam Transport Marion.

Landing of the Seventh Connecticut Regiment on Tybee Island.

Bombardment Without Effect from Fort Pulaski.

Important Movements Projected at Port Royal.

The Railroad Between Charleston and Savannah to be Seized.

A Beaufort Tradesman Returned to his Store.

The United States transport steamship *Marion*, Capt. J. D. PHOKERS, from Tybee Island Dec. 20, and Port Royal harbor Dec. 21, arrived at this port yesterday.

She left Tybee Island on the 20th inst., having the day previous conveyed from Port Royal seven companies of the Seventh Connecticut Regiment, Col. A. H. TERRY, and a large quantity of military and commissary stores, horses and fodder. Gen. WRIGHT and part of his Staff were also on board.

While discharging cargo, opposite the light-house, Fort Pulaski opened a heavy fire upon the *Marion* with shot and shell. One of the latter burst within a very short distance of her, but without doing any damage.

On the 1st inst., at 4½ P. M., she left Port Royal Harbor for New-York, and experienced a succession of very severe northerly gales, with a very rough and wild sea, the entire passage.

The expedition intended for Gen. VIELE'S Brigade, as before reported, has been abandoned, at least for the present, resulting, it is reported, from want of harmony between Gen. SHERMAN and Commodore DUPONT, relative to the plan of action.

Gen. STEVENS, whose brigade has recently been reinforced by the Seventy-sixth and part of the Forty-fifth Pennsylvania Regiments, it is expected, will in a few days make an advance from Beaufort, and seize a point on the Charleston and Savannah Railroad.

Gen. WRIGHT will probably be stationed at Tybee and assume the command. Before his arrival, there were only 600 men of the New-York Forty-sixty Regiment on the island, with not a gun mounted, and liable to be attacked at any moment by the rebels in force. Gen. WRIGHT'S Brigade has been for some time past busily engaged on the cordon of earth-works inclosing Hilton Head, for a distance of about three miles back, extending from shore to shore. The works are to be defended by 100 guns of heavy calibre, and will be impregnable against any force that may be brought against them.

The steamship *Vanderbilt* and bark *Texas* arrived at Port Royal on the morning of the 21st inst.

Sixteen of the stone fleet have been sunk off Charleston harbor.

The passengers brought by the *Marion* from Port Royal harbor are as follows:

Lieut. G. W. Jackson, Third New-Hampshire; Lieut. S. T. Klecker, Seventy-sixth Pennsylvania; Lieut. H. V. Rockafellow, Forty-seventh New-York; Lieut. J. W. Baker, Forty-fifth Pennsylvania; Sergeant H. B. Newton, Sixth Connecticut; H. R. Jaycox, band leader Sixth Connecticut; and nine privates, discharged on account of ill-health.

OUR PORT royal CORRESPONDENCE.

A Small Skirmish on the Mainland—A Beaufort Tradesman Returned and opened Shop—Another Call for more Men—The Railroad to be Seized—A Prospective March on the Mainland—Reception of the European News, etc.

PORT ROYAL, Thursday, Dec. 19, 1861.

The forces at Beaufort had a small affair with pickets day before yesterday, on the mainland, and when that hath its record, the summary of news since my last is about ended. The details of the skirmish at Beaufort, as I learn them, were that some fourteen of our men, on horseback, touched the mainland in their travels, drove in or surprised the pickets of the enemy, and brought back six of them, all alive and kicking.

I felt like stopping the last steamer, for the purpose of announcing that a rebel, belonging to Beaufort, had returned and set up shop! Mr. WILCOX, the veritable messenger of Esculapius, whose ruined greatness I depicted *so* touchingly in my last, who departed amid evident confusion and the crash of several worlds—globes, I mean—and the spilling of life elixirs, and ethers, and dancing chloroforms, and patent pectorals, has returned to dispense the aforesaid compounds to another community, not quite so shaky and weak in the joints, as were his last customers. Whether JEFF. DAVIS has, through a far-seeing *finesse* arrangement, turned Mr. WILCOX loose among us barbarians and Hessians, for the purpose of preparing strychnine gravy and poached arsenic along with our morning coffee, or whether Mr. WILCOX proposes to mend his crockery, and manners, and ways generally, and live in fear of law and of God evermore, dispensing his dispensary bounty honestly with all men, women and dogs, is not known as yet. The only real thing about the matter personally interesting to me, is the fact, that anticipating such an event, I destroyed (in company with the Surgeon of Col. SERRELL'S Engineer Corps,) all the poisons on the premises, and they were not a few. Mr. WILCOX has put his inglorious-looking establishment into good condition—the Latin-vexed glasses in gilt and great terms, are looking down from their familiar place in the old row, as before the war; the lame, the halt and the sore-headed, pass by his door as of yore, and Great Babylon boasts its merchant, just one, ready to kill or cure, at double prices. But seriously, this little straw, albeit but a pill—a medicated and perhaps unhealthy affair, hardly worth turning up one's nose about, is worth a comment. For, should Mr. WILCOX, unless a raid spy, venture to return or be caught, while hostilities are still popular, his powders, and nervines, mandragoras all, will not save his neck from a slip-noose improvised in double-quick. He swears to be loyal—says he always was loyal—has come to stay, and that half the people of Beaufort, if they were not afraid to act out their own hearts' desire, would return at once, delighted to know what a clever set of men we are, to be sure.

We want *more* men forthwith. Let us march on to the railway between Charleston and Savannah with a moderate force, hold a position for a larger force to come up, annoy these two rebel capitals at bay, till fear has burned them up, (as it will,) and you will hear a story of peace afterwards that will lift the Southern Confederacy from its present degraded condition back to its own standard *ante-bellum*. I don't see the necessity of going further South to open another port, when we can't go ahead and turn to advantage the ports now opened. We expected immediate reinforcements after having taken Port Royal, but none of any amount have reached us. We are far enough South to make all the trouble necessary to our enemy. Let us remain here till reinforced, and then forward in good time to the railroad.

The *Vanderbilt* has just arrived from New-York. The *Wyandotte* came in a day previous, and so did one other gunboat, both with large mails, though a week from the North. We look for a movement on the Potomac with eager hopes, as you have been looking with expectancy from this region. No arrival yet from Tybee, so we are all in the dark of what has been done there.

I just learn from private sources that the Seventh Connecticut Volunteers landed at Tybee. They went to help finish the battery around the old fort on the point at Tybee Island. Two heavy Parrott guns, rifled, sufficient to reach Fort Pulaski, are there. The rebels have lately fired heavier guns at the fort, as they occasionally shell the Union camp, but as yet have done no damage. A shell fired last evening came within one hundred yards of the *Marion*, which goes to New-York to-morrow, and will report for herself. Our forces have never met an enemy, although our pickets have crossed to the neighboring islands frequently.

Yesterday a lot of contrabands came in by an open boat from Brunswick, some fifteen all told. Their masters had run away from them, proving JOHN RANDOLPH'S assertion of Virginia slaveholders; and running away is good of Georgia, and indeed of the whole South. Massa runs first, then nigger follows example, but goes t'other way exactly.

The European news has made intense excitement. War is the word universally from every mouth.

WANDERER.

AFFAIRS ON THE UPPER POTOMAC.

The Execution of Lanaghan for the Murder of Major Lewis—Military Movements—Illness of Gen. Kelley, &c.

FREDERICK, Monday, Dec. 23.

The approval of the sentence of Court-martial in the case of LANAHAN for murder, the order for his execution and the date thereof, was forwarded by General MCCLELLAN, on Thursday, requiring from Gen. BANKS only to name the place and the hour. The gallows was planned and erected by a man from Baltimore, who has experience in such matters.

The circumstances of the murder were as follows: The Forty-sixth Pennsylvania was on its way from Washington to Pleasant Hill. At Rockville, several of the soldiers procured liquor and became intoxicated. At Muddy Branch, LANAGHAN, being under the influence of liquor, had a quarrel, and Major LEWIS ordered him to be tied to the rear of a wagon. During the progress of the march LANAGHAN got untied, and taking a loaded musket from one of his comrades, swore he would shoot the Major. The latter being in advance, heard of his release, and rode to the rear, where he met LANAGHAN and ordered him to give up the gun. LANAGHAN took aim and shot Major LEWIS through the heart as he was in the act of dismounting.

During his confinement, before and after trial, your correspondent had free access to the prisoner, and paid him frequent visits. From the first he was calm and resigned to his fate, being fully sensible of the enormity of his crime, and equally willing to expiate it by his death. By the ministrations of Father DOUGHERTY, of Rockville, he avowed his faith, and said he had assurances that he would be forgiven in Heaven. I visited him an hour before his execution. His confessor was with him. On my entering he advanced, smiling, and reached out his manacled right hand.

LANAGHAN—Good morning, Mr. ——; I am glad to see you. You have not been here for a long time.

CORRESPONDENT—I have been absent on the Upper Potomac.

LANAGHAN—I thought you were away, (smiling,) My time has come.

CORRESPONDENT—So I am sorry to hear, JOHN; I wish it could be otherwise. Are you all right here? (placing my hand on his heart.)

LANAGHAN—By the love of God, I am. I am not sorry to die now. I owe it to God and man, and cannot be better prepared. Death is only a change from one state to another, and takes but a moment.

CORRESPONDENT—Is there anything you wish to say to the world through the Press?

LANAGHAN—But very little. I committed the murder, and am willing to die for it. Say to the people I pray for peace. Tell the soldiers to abstain from liquor. I pray for them as I hope they do for me. I die in peace.

After requesting me to be present at the execution, I bade him a final adieu. During the whole interview he spoke in a firm tone. Not a nerve or muscle quivered.

At noon LANAGHAN was placed in a covered wagon, with his spiritual adviser and his coffin. He walked out with a firm step, and took his seat with but slight assistance. The procession was formed as follows:

1. The Provost Marshal and Assistant Marshal.
2. Band of the Wisconsin Third.
3. A platoon of the Provost Guard.
4. Wagon with the prisoner and priest.
5. Platoon of the Provost Guard.
6. Hack, with the executioner, in disguise.
7. The Wisconsin Third.

The Third Brigade, Gen. WILLIAMS, to which LANAHAN'S regiment is alloted, was upon the ground. LANAGHAN viewed the preparations without the slightest apparent emotion, and ascended the scaffold with an unfaltering step.

The Adjutant of the Provost-Martial, read aloud the charges and specifications on which he was tried, the finding and sentence of the Court-martial, the approval and the order for his execution by the Commander-in-Chief. The Assistant Provost-Marshal inquired if he had anything to say. He replied, "No, I have nothing to say. I am ready to die." The cap was drawn over his face and the rope adjusted on his neck by the executioner. Those on the platform descended, and on the usual signal by the Provost-Marshal, the executioner pulled the spring, and the drop fell. A slight contraction of the muscles of the arms and legs, was the motion that indicated the departure of life. His neck was broken.

So calm was his death, and so systematically had all the arrangements been perfected and executed, that the solemn scene was divested of its usual attendant horrors. Not a shudder was noticed in the vast crowd of spectators and soldiers.

From early in the forenoon until an hour after the execution, and particularly at the solemn moment the heavens seemed waging war upon the earth. A freezing wind, with snow and hail, chilled the bodies and almost blinded the eyes of all present.

LANAGHAN'S body was taken charge of by his Catholic friends, to await the arrival of his relations.

FREDERICK, Tuesday, Dec. 25.

Capt. HOWE'S Battery, Company G, Fourth Artillery, leave here this A. M. for Washington.

Capt. BEST'S Battery, Company F, Fourth Artillery, have returned from Williamsport.

Private advices from Romney state that Gen. KELLY continues too ill to take the field, and that Gen. ROSECRANS will conduct operations in that section.

At last reports from Williamsport, everything was quiet in that region. The weight of ice upon the wires has broken them, and just at this moment we are without telegraph communication.

Two 10-pound Parrott guns have been added to Gen. B.'s artillery force.

Another company has just been added to the Nineteenth New-York Volunteer Regiment. There are now eight companies of this regiment in camp here, and 156 men under Capt. Kennedy, at Washington awaiting their armament.

The Catoctin and Blue Ridge are covered with a slight coat of snow this morning.

FIRST MASSACHUSETTS CAVALRY.

Lieut.-Col. HORACE BINNEY SARGENT, and Mr. L. W. KNIGHT, Quartermaster of the First Massachusetts Cavalry Regiment, arrived here yesterday morning, and, made arrangements with Col. FRANK E. HOWE, for putting the first battalion of this regiment, under command of S. GREELLY CURTIS, through the City to-day. This command numbers over 400 men and horses, and was to leave Boston yesterday, at 1 o'clock, by the Providence route, *via* New-Haven. The battalion will reach Twenty-ninth street and Fourth-avenue about 8 o'clock this morning, and without any formal reception, will march to the foot of Cortlandt-street, to take the boat to Jersey City and thence proceed to Annapolis.

THE FIRST ILLINOIS CAVALRY.

Col. H. M. DAY, formerly Lieutenant-Colonel of the First Illinois Cavalry, is in the City, having recently been at Washington, where he succeeded in having himself and regiment mustered again into the service. The Colonel, as Lieutenant-Colonel, was with his regiment in the fight at Lexington, with Col. MULLIGAN, and was badly wounded in the leg. He is still quite lame, but expects to take his command, which numbers 1,140 men, into active service in a very short time.

COL. MULLIGAN.

Colonel MULLIGAN responded as follows to an invitation to visit Boston:

FIFTH AVENUE HOTEL,
NEW-YORK CITY, Saturday, Dec. 21, 1861.

GENTLEMEN—I have received and thank you for your flattering invitation to lecture in Boston. I would accept it with pleasure, were it not that every telegraph brings stirring news from the West. I am impatient to do my humble part in quelling this wild and most wicked rebellion. You will accept this reason, united with the wish that we may meet, peace returned, when the law is vindicated. In the meantime let us press this war to a successful issue—press it vigorously and incessantly. All weakness now is wickedness. With kind regard, your friend,

JAS. A. MULLIGAN.

To Hon J. M. WIGHTMAN, JAMES RILEY, P. DONAHOE, and others.

THE CONNECTICUT ELEVENTH.

INCIDENTS OF THE TRIP FROM NEW-YORK TO ANNAPOLIS.

STEAMER NEW-BRUNSWICK, AT ANCHOR OFF ANNAPOLIS, Friday, Dec. 20, 1861.

Correspondence of the New-York Times.

The Connecticut Eleventh, which arrived in New-York on Tuesday, *en route* for Annapolis, reëmbarked on the afternoon of that day on the transports *New-York* and *New-Brunswick*—the right wing of the regiment upon the former, the left upon the latter.

The fortunes of the left wing are those of your correspondent, and they include a one-sided naval engagement which took place at about 6 o'clock in the evening, near Fort Hamilton, and which ended in the ignominious defeat of our transport, which was obliged to return to her anchorage off the "Battery," the Captain and engineers supposing her to be disabled.

The facts in the case are simply these: The transport left the pier at about dusk and steamed down the bay. When near Fort Hamilton she was challenged by a Government vessel, in the usual manner—*i. e.*, a shot across her bow. For reasons as yet unknown the transport held her course, regardless of the challenge. Another shot from the vigilant sentinel, and a ball whistles over our devoted heads; still the transport holds her course; a signal rocket from the sentinel vessel and Fort Hamilton opens upon us with a 24-pounder, the shot crashing through the machinery and passing out of a state-room. This had the desired effect, and the transport hove to. It is hardly less than a miracle that not one of the five hundred on board was injured. Had the ball entered the boat in any other direction, or a few feet higher or lower, many lives must have been sacrificed to the criminal carelessness of whoever is responsible for the safe conduct of the troops. How does it happen that there are men employed by Government on transports so stupidly ignorant of their profession? With the exception of those in charge, who were directly responsible, I believe it would be difficult to find a man among us who did not understand the meaning of the first shot.

This accident (if such it can properly be called) occasioned a delay of some six hours, and these hours cost the Government at the rate of about seven hundred dollars per day.

We were soon upon the heaving bosom of Old Ocean, riding easily the long swells, feeling the pulse of the great deep beneath us. It was a night of splendor—the starry dome above us, the silvery sea beneath us, the shore behind us, curtained by a hazy veil of blue—the moonlight dancing upon the snowy plumes of the myriad waves, rolling lazily toward the shore—here and there the snowy sails of ships, and far out upon the sea, where the horizon joins sky and ocean, the dark hulls of steamers.

As we paced the deck, we could not forget our errand. The bayonets of the sentinels glistening in the moonlight reminded us that no idle pleasure-trip was ours. Beyond there are bayonets that these must cross in the struggle for freedom, and for that peace which, like the peace and harmony of the shining constellations above us, is the result of obedience to law. And beyond the sea, too, there are bayonets that ours may cross, as twice before they have crossed, in the fierce struggle for the liberties of the American people, and the supremacy of our God-given Government.

The sun rose next morning in unclouded splendor; a fairer day never dawned upon the deep; but, alas, for the long swells that rocked us in the "cradle of the deep," we saw no beauty in the generous sunshine, the cloudless sky, or yet the "glad, blue sea." Strangest yet of all, the "breakfast call," in other days a sound that to the recruit is like the music of the spheres, was heard with blank dismay, and all crowded as far as possible from the steaming viands with which our Uncle feeds us. Disgust was the expression of the countenances of those who reeled from port to starbord, winding their way aft, steering to the windward always of the whiffs of tobacco smoke that they were occasionally obliged to encounter. There was a peculiar paleness about the mouth—a lack of lustre in the eye—a dropping of the lower jaw, and withal an expression of sulky resignation, decidedly portentious, and later yet there was convulsive clasping of the bulwarks, and the form of many a gallant recruit lay stretched upon the deck, or doubled up upon a coil of rope, or was bent in earnest contemplation of the bottom of some convenient water bucket. Horror of horrors thy name is sea-sickness; and so all that bright beautiful day was lost upon us, who saw beauty in nothing save in the contemplation of sweet revenge upon those who in our distress had proffered us cigars or suggested as a remedy salt pork and molasses. At length that day, miserable indeed to the sea-sick, was ended, and the night came on; and finally day broke in the east, we were steaming smoothly up the Chesapeake; the bay was as smooth as glass; dimly discernible were the hostile shores of the "Old Dominion" giving no sign or token of the war's desolation, but peaceful and quiet, as yet they may be in fact, when the descendants of the F. F. V., shall have learned the lesson of the day. Here and there a spunky little gunboat creeps close in shore, or dodges into some cosy nook, and "lies low" for passing craft, basking in the sun until some passer-by like ourselves, innocently and unsuspectingly steams along. Then they pounce upon you before you can quicken your headway. Truly they are Yankees, indeed, for they hail every stranger, and inquire who he is and where he is from. Two of these imprudent little craft spoke us during the day. Since our experience in the Narrows we "heave to" upon the slightest provocation.

We have hugged the shore rather closely to-day. The foliage is still green, and the weather is more like June than December; here, and there are signs of civilization. Quiet homesteads snugly nestling in groves of pine, with rich farm-lands in the background, pasture lands on the hillsides, and in the distance long dreary lines of pine-trees, fresh in their livery of dark green, standing sentinel-like on the hill-tops—now and then for miles all is wild and uncultivated, and, one might easily fancy himself the discoverer of a new land. Long, dreary curtains of forest shut out the view beyond; the monotony is only broken by sandy bluffs, edged with cedars, and, at rare intervals, green meadow slopes and open forest vistas—occasionally a little island, and now and then a light-house standing out on some lonely promontory, reminding one of a weary soldier on picket duty who had ought to be relieved.

At last we descry the spires of Annapolis, (few and far between,) and from the tallest waves the stars and stripes; we look in vain for the fleet we expected to find; only a few transports are here, quietly watching and waiting.

The right wing of the regiment arrived in the *New-York*, some six hours ahead of us, and as I write, is disembarking. The regiment will go into camp some two miles out of the city, near the Eighth and Tenth Connecticut. The expedition will not sail under ten days; it will be one of great importance, judging from the preparations being made.

L.

THE COAST DEFENCES OF MAINE.

The Portland papers publish a correspondence between Gov. WASHBURN, of Maine, and Secretary CAMERON, regarding the coast defences of that State. Gov. WASHBURN states that—

"From the State line at Kittery to West Quoddy Head, in a coast line of three hundred miles, there are over one hundred good harbors at which ships are built and manned, with an actual shore line of more than three thousand miles, following the line of tide water into navigable bays, inlets, and deep river estuaries. Not one harbor is properly defended, and in only three have attempts at defence been made."

Then, calling attention in detail to the advantages of the respective harbors, he suggests certain defensive measures, which should be at once adopted. He appoints Hon. HANNIBAL HAMLIN, REUEL WILLIAMS, and JOHN A. POOR as Commissioners to confer with the General Government regarding the action which it is advisable to take. Secretary CAMERON replies as follows:

WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, Nov. 16, 1861.

SIR: Your communication to the President, in reply to the official note of the Secretary of State, of the 4th of October, in reference to the improvement of the fortifications and erection of other defences of the loyal States, having been submitted to this department for examination and report, I had the honor to advise you, under date of the 13th inst., that this department would appoint a competent engineer to examine and report on the defences required within the State of Maine, as the first practical step towards the attainment of the important ends in view.

In view of the importance this matter seems likely to assume, and in response to the prompt and liberal conduct of the authorities of the State of Maine, I am directed by the President to assure your Excellency of his readiness to avail himself of the means placed at his disposal by the loyal States for the purpose of having the ports and harbors on the seas and lakes put in a condition of complete defence.

The extent and character of such expenditures can only be determined by the proper officers of the Government, to whom these matters must be confided.

Calls will only be made for such sums of money from the State Government as may be required to perfect such works as may be authorized.

The obligation of the State to furnish all the means required to make each work of defence will greatly facilitate the speedy completion of the several defensive works undertaken.

The improvements or fortifications being made by the money of the State in the first instance, advanced to the General Government in the nature of a loan for the general defence of the country at large, there is every reason to believe that Congress would sanction what the State shall do in the premises, and provide evidence of indebtedness on the part of the General Government, and for the reimbursement of the money within a reasonable period.

The prompt acceptance of the suggestions of the President, as contained in the official note of the Secretary of State, by the Governor of Maine, has given new proof of the loyalty and patriotism of its people, whose liberal contributions of patriotic men and of money has already afforded much satisfaction to the President and to this department.

The necessary plans, estimates, and specifications will be seasonably laid before your Excellency, in time for such legislative action as may be required; and on the receipt of official information that means are provided, on the terms above indicated, to carry into execution the object stated, the prosecution of the system of defence for your State will be vigorously carried forward by the proper agents or officers of the Government.

I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

SIMON CAMERON,
Secretary of War.

His Excellency the GOVERNOR of the State of Maine.

ADDITIONAL FROM EUROPE.

Arrival of the Niagara off Cape Race.

THE TRENT AFFAIR.

Reported Decision of the Great Powers Against the United States.

Advance in Cotton—Breadstuffs Quiet bnt Steady—Provisions Firm.

ST. JOHNS, N. F., Dec. 24, *via* PORT HOOD, 25.

The Royal Mail steamship *Niagara*, from Liverpool, Dec. 14, *via* Queenstown, 15th, passed Cape Race at 11 o'clock on Monday night, *en route* to Halifax and Boston.

She was boarded by the news-yacht and her advices obtained.

The Royal Mail steamship *Asia*, from New-York, arrived at Queenstown on the 15th.

The *Niagara* will be due at Halifax late Wednesday night or early Thursday morning.

THE LATEST VIA QUEENSTOWN.

LONDON, Sunday, Dec. 15.

Prince ALBERT died Saturday night at 11 o'clock, of typhoid fever.

Sir E. BOWATER, in charge of young Prince LEOPOLD, (the youngest son of Queen VICTORIA,) also died yesterday, at Cannes, in France.

The *Patrie* says that it is asserted that France and the Great Powers have been consulted by Great Britain, and have expressed the opinion that the conduct of Capt. WILKES was a violation of the rights of neutrals.

Commercial News by the Niagara.

LIVERPOOL, Saturday, Dec. 14.

COTTON—The *Brokers' Circular* reports the sales of Cotton for the week at 35,000 bales. The market has been firmer, and an advance in prices of ⅛d.@⅜d. is established. The sales to speculators were 9,000 bales, and those to exporters 4,000 bales. The sales of Friday were 5,000 bales, the market closing very dull. The authorized quotations are:

Orleans, fair	12d.	Orleans, middling	10⅞d.
Mobiles, fair	11⅜d.	Mobiles, middling	10⅜d.
Uplands, fair	11⅜d.	Uplands, middling	10⅜d.

The stock in port is estimated at 597,000 bales, of which 240,000 are American.

Advices from Manchester are unfavorable. The market is very dull.

Breadstuffs are generally quiet, but steady.

Provisions firm.

LONDON, Saturday, Dec. 14.

Consols closed yesterday at 90⅜@90⅝ for money.

The bullion in the Bank of England has increased £128,000.

HAVRE, Thursday, Dec. 12.

Cotton advanced 4f.@5f., closing steady. Sales of the week, 3,250 bales; New-Orleans *tres ordinaire*, 142f.; do. *bas*, 136f. Stock, 141,000 bales.

THE TRENT AFFAIR.

Correspondence of the Baltimore Sun.

WASHINGTON, Monday, Dec. 23.

No one pretends to foresee the issue of the *Trent* affair, but various opinions prevail in regard to it. One thing is pretty certain—to wit: that the Senate is not to be consulted upon the question. It was thought, a few days ago, that such a reference might be made if the President should hesitate as to his course. But it is understood that no such advisement will become necessary.

It may be inferred, therefore, that either Mr. SEWARD is certain that the matter is to be settled by negotiation, or that the President intends to take upon himself the sole responsibility of rejecting the British demands. The latter supposition is improbable.

The sudden return of Gen. SCOTT can only be accounted for on the supposition that the danger of war is imminent. Gen. SCOTT has telegraphed to Mr. SEWARD that he has come home on a special and most important mission from the Emperor of France in reference to the threatening aspect of the British and American difficulty. He had a long and very important interview on the subject with the Emperor, who has authorized him to assure the United States Government of his earnest desire to prevent a war between the United States and England. This dispatch came from St. Johns, and probably the *Arago* will arrive in New-York to-morrow or the next day.

Gen. SCOTT'S message of mediation and conciliation will probably be nearly simultaneously with the formal presentation of the British demands. As a pacificator, Gen. SCOTT has twice or thrice before been successful, and perhaps his good fortune has in store for him one more such triumph.

REPORTED MOVEMENTS OF REBEL AMBASSADORS.

The Halifax Evening *Express*, referring to the telegraphic report that HUNTER and BRECKINRIDGE had been appointed Commissioners in place of MASON and SLIDELL, and were to take passage at Halifax in a British steamer, says:

"The telegram turns out to be correct. Mr. BRECKINRIDGE, it appears, arrived here about a week ago, accompanied by another gentleman, and took passage this morning in the *Canada* for Europe.

It appears that the authorities in Boston were aware of the fact of Mr. BRECKINRIDGE being here, and the Attorney-General of Boston sent a notice to the Captain of the *Canada*, previous to his sailing from Boston, forbidding him taking BRECKINRIDGE on board; but, we are informed that no notice was taken of it, and Mr. BRECKINRIDGE is now on board the steamer, *en route* to Europe."

The Halifax *Morning Journal* copied the above, remarking:

"The above we give on the authority of the *Express* of last evening, but do not vouch for its entire authenticity. We may mention, in connection with this statement, that, for a week past, two gentlemen, whose names, business, and destination, seemed to be shrouded in mystery, have been in Halifax, and it is possible that they may have been the Southern Commissioners. If so, they managed to preserve their *incog.* pretty effectually until the hour of their departure."

THE ENGLISH GOVERNMENT.

In a recent letter to the South Bend *Register*, Hon. SCHUYLER COLFAX says:

"Last Saturday, dining with one of the Administration, I had the pleasure of meeting the Prince DE JOINVILLE, son of LOUIS PHILLIPPE, and whose two nephews—the Comte DE PARIS (the heir to the French throne if ever the Orleans dynasty should be restored) and Duc DE CHARTRES, are in Gen. MCCLELLAN'S Staff. The Prince is slightly deaf, and speaks English a little broken; but it was very interesting to hear him discuss European statesmen and politics, especially in view of our possible complications with foreign countries. He is thoroughly attached to the Union, having come here to place his son in our navy as a Midshipman. He is satisfied that we shall have serious trouble with England about the Mason and Slidell capture by the gallant WILKES.

DEATH OF HON. SOLOMON G. HAVEN.—The community was startled, this morning, by the tidings that Hon. SOLOMON G. HAVEN, one of our oldest and best-known citizens, was dead. We learn that the sad event was the result of a paralytic stroke. As a prominent member of the Bar, the law partner of Mr. FILLMORE, and the former Representative of this District in Congress, Mr. HAVEN was generally known, and everywhere favorably. Time denies to us, today, the preparation of a proper tribute to our departed fellow-citizen. We can only say, further, that his loss will be deeply and fervently regretted.—*Buffalo Commercial*, 25th.

GENERAL CITY NEWS.

CORONERS' INQUESTS.—HENRIETTA LYNCH died very suddenly on Tuesday evening, at the lodging-house of CORNELIUS MALONEY, No. 37 Park-street. Deceased was a native of Ireland, 50 years of age. The Coroner will hold an inquest to-day.....BERNARDEN MCGUINN, living at No. 90 Tenth-avenue, died suddenly on Tuesday night. The Coroner was notified. .....EDWARD THOMPSON, a soldier in the Fifteenth Regiment New-York Volunteers, Col. MCLEOD MURPHY had been in the City on a furlough, and was returning to his regiment on the 18th inst. He had arrived in Baltimore, when by some means he struck his head against the sharp portion of a railroad car, and fractured his skull, from the effects of which he died on Tuesday in the latter city. His remains were brought on here yesterday, and the Coroner notified. Deceased was a native of Ireland, 32 years of age, and resided at No. 653 Seventh-avenue.....The body of an unknown man was found yesterday in the North River, at the foot of Thirty-seventh-street. It was taken to the dead-house of Bellevue Hospital, and the Coroner notified.....An unknown man was found dead yesterday in the cellar of a new building in West-street, one door below Jay-street.

THE SWEDES IN NEW-YORK.—A somewhat numerous and very respectable society of Swedes exists in New-York, and the Christmas season has afforded them an excellent opportunity for reunion and enjoyment. The most interesting meeting that has brought them together for some time, occurred on Sunday last, when divine service, in the Swedish Lutheran manner, was conducted on board the Swedish frigate *Norrkoping*, now at anchor in our harbor, by the ministration of Rev. Mr. GOWANIUS, the chaplain of the vessel. On Monday night, a very pleasant ball and supper, offered by the Swedes of this City, in a quiet way, to the officers of the *Norrkoping*, collected a brilliant party in Pythagoras Hall. Yesterday was celebrated on board the Swedish man-of-war with the observances and joviality of Scandinavia at home.

SHOOTING AT A POLICEMAN.—GEORGE SMITH, a German, who lives in Park-street, was found by Officer HERSCHE, of the Sixth Precinct, at 2½ o'clock yesterday morning, creating a disturbance in front of the Mission house. The official requested him to desist, but SMITH becoming exasperated with HERSCHE, deliberately drew a pistol and fired at him. Fortunately he missed his aim, and the officer was unharmed. SMITH was arrested upon the charge of feloniously assaulting an officer while in the discharge of his duty. Justice BARNHAM committed him to the Tombs yesterday in default of $1,000 bail.

DANGEROUSLY WOUNDED IN A STREET FIGHT.—About 6 o'clock, last night, JERRY FAY and JOHN MORTON got into a fight with WADE FIELDER and JOHN CROW, on the corner of Greenwich and King streets. MORTON was stabbed in a dangerous manner in the left side, and FAY had his jaw broken with a slung-shot. MORTON was conveyed to his residence, No. 151 Hammond-street, where his wounds were dressed by Dr. VOSBURGH. FIELDER and CROW were arrested, and committed to the Station-house of the Twenty-eighth Precinct.

HOMICIDE IN WORTH STREET.—Officer ELDRIDGE, of the Fifth Precinct, on Tuesday night, arrested FREDERICK WIENICKE, on the charge of causing the death of CHARLES H. RUSSELL, (colored) by shooting him in the leg with a pistol, producing a wound so serious that he died on Monday last. The act was committed on the 27th of November last, at No. 15 Worth-street. The accused is a native of Germany, 38 years of age. He will be held to await the result of the Coroner's investigation.

FIRE AT THE DRY DOCK.—At 6½ o'clock, last evening, a fire broke out in a machine-shop at the Sectional Dry Dock, foot of Clinton-street. Loss about $600. Fully insured.

For Europe.

BOSTON, Wednesday, Dec. 25.

The steamship *Europa* sailed at noon to-day for Liverpool, *via* Halifax, with 35 passengers for the former, and 15 for the latter place.

MISS LANE AND THE PRINCE OF WALES.—We are requested by a gentleman whose official position at the time enabled him to know all the facts, to contradict a calumny recently transmitted to a notorious New-York press by one of those letter writers here whose unscrupulous misuses are well calculated to bring discredit on the whole fraternity. This gentleman denies that the Prince of Wales ever presented to President BUCHANAN any pictures of the royal family for the Presidential mansion or for any other purpose. The Prince, shortly before he embarked for England, sent to Miss LANE as a token of personal regard six loose sheets, containing likenesses of the Queen, Prince ALBERT, and four of their royal children. She had them plainly framed at her own expense, and hung up in the family sitting-room, until she should return to Wheatland.

The charge in relation to the Chinese or Japanese curiosities, in the same letter, is equally untrue. All the articles presented to President BUCHANAN by the Japanese Ambassadors were, by his direction, deposited in the Patent Office, with the original list, and a receipt taken for them.—*From the Washington Intelligencer, Dec. 23.*

[Advertisement.]

FROCK PALETOT
OVERCOATS,
SACK OVERCOATS,
CAPE OVERCOATS,
ARMY OVERCOATS.
New and elegant styles, at
LOW PRICES.
DEVLIN & CO.,
Broadway, corner Warren-st.
Broadway, corner Grand-st.

[Advertisement.]

FOLEY'S
CELEBRATED GOLD PENS,
Gold and Silver Pencil Cases,
New styles for Holiday Presents.
JOHN FOLEY, Manufacturer,
No. 163 Broadway.

[Advertisement.]

ALL THROUGH THE HOLIDAY SEASON will that new fairy piece which so delighted the thousands on Christmas Day, at Barnum's Museum, be produced there every afternoon and evening, while the great whale, hippopotamus and other curiosities, will be seen at all hours, day and evening.

[Advertisement.]

"CENTRAL PARK SKATE EMPORIUM."—Skates from 25 cents to $25. Everything in the skating line (except ponds) to suit all ages, sexes, tastes and purses. Parlor skates. We make a specialty of skates. CONOVER & WALKER, No. 474 Broadway.

Passengers Arrived.

In brig Mary Emily, from Nassau, N. P.—Capt. Bain, late of brig Forest City, wrecked at Nassau; Charles Grosneck, W. H. McDowell.

MINIATURE ALMANAC—THIS DAY.
Sun rises.... 7 23 | Sun sets.... 4 39 | Moon rises... 1 43
HIGH WATER—THIS DAY.
Sandy Hook. 2 31 | Gov. Island. 3 20 | Hell Gate.... 4 42

MARINE INTELLIGENCE.

NEW-YORK....WEDNESDAY, Dec. 25.

Arrived.

U. S. steam transport Marion, Phillips, Tybee Island Dec. 20, and Port Royal Harbor Dec. 21, to Spofford, Tileston & Co.

U. S. steam transport Osprey, ——, Baltimore 2 ds., in ballast.

Steamer Falcon, Jones, Providence, with mdse. to E. Bynner.

Brig Bion Bradbury, (Br.,) Miller, Demerara Nov. 23 via St. Thomas Dec. 3, in ballast, to Brett, Son & Co. Had heavy northerly winds the entire passage. Dec. 7, lat. 20, lon 69 30, during a heavy gale from N. W., carried away foretopsail-yard. Dec. 11, lat. 26 10, lon. 72 30, spoke U. S. ship Macedonia, from St. Thomas for Boston.

Brig Mariner, (Br., of St. John, N. B.,) Atkins, St. John, N. B., 7 ds., with ship timber to Thos. Collyer.

Brig Mary Emily, (Br., of Nassau, N. P.,) Avery, Nassau, N. P., 12 ds., with mdse. to J. Eneas.

Schr. Alba, O'Donnell, Cette Oct. 16—passed Gibraltar Nov. 1—via Shelburne, N. S., Dec. 17, with wine and salt to E. S. Powell. Nov. 3, in a heavy blow from N. W., sprung a leak, and was compelled to throw overboard part of the cargo (salt) to lighten the vessel. Put into Shelburne, N. S., Dec. 10, to obtain men to assist in working the pumps. Has experienced heavy W. gales the entire passage; split sails, &c.

Schr. Luisita, Underhill, Havana Dec. 10, with fruit to Thos. Gilmartin.

Schr. Dwight Davidson, Ketchum, Pocomoke River, with oysters for New-Haven.

Schr. Breeze, Hulse, Baltimore 6 ds., with flour, &c., to Merrill & Abbott.

Schr. W. H. Sargent, Sargent, Elizabethport, with coal for Boston.

Schr. Ellen Barnes, Briggs, Rondout, with coal for Providence.

Schr. W. Capes, Van Name, Wacomacoke, Md., 2 ds., with wood.

Schr. Sedona, Wall, Rondout, with coal for Boston.

Schr. Etna, Hall, Pocomoke River 2 ds., with oysters.

WIND—During the day, N. N. W.

Sailed.

Dec. 24.—Steamship Cleator, (Br.,) for Kingston, Jam. Ships Kate Sweetland, for Galway; Western Empire, for Boston. Brigs Atlantic, (Br.,) for Nassau; Neander, (Br.,) for Remedios; Margaret Burt, for Porto Rico; Pilgrim, (Br.,) for Bermuda. Schr. Montrose, Havana.

Miscellaneous.

LOSS OF THE BRIG FOREST CITY.—The brig Forest City, Capt. Bain, sailed from Cardenas Nov. 21, with a cargo of 160 hhds. molasses, bound to Portland, Me., and on the 24th, in lat. 27, lon. 79 43, experienced a gale from N. W., during which she sprung a leak, and fin